The Middlebury Campus

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McCardell to Relinquish Top Job in June 2004

By Andrea Gissing
NEWS EDITOR

President John McCardell Jr. borrowed words from his inauguration speech to announce his resignation Tuesday afternoon: "There is indeed much to be done. Let's get on with it."

In a heartfelt address to students, faculty and staff in Mead Chapel, McCardell revealed his intent to step down as president of the College effective June 30, 2004. After a one-year leave, he will return to campus as College Professor, continuing his 28-year career at Middlebury.

"This seems the right time to begin a transition to new leadership," he said. "Thirteen years as president is a long time — three complete student generations, going on four."

In those 13 years, he has set in motion the commons model of residential life, closed the books on historic fundraising campaigns and overseen a major expansion of college facilities. And in a broader sense, he sketched a vision of the College that will far outlast his ad-

SEE MCCARDELL, PAGE 6

Schuyler Van Horn

In a speech delivered to the College community, John McCardell Jr. announced on Tuesday that he would bid farewell to the Middlebury College presidency.

Allies Foster Ties with GLBTQ Community and Beyond

By Claire M. L. Bourne
MANAGING EDITOR

GLBTQ (IN)VISIBILITY
PART TWO IN A THREE-PART SERIES

Middlebury College's Ally Group has existed for 11 years. But when Commons Residential Advisor (CRA) Freeman White '03 tells people he does leadership work for the organization, most respond with blank stares. Tonight, more than a decade after its informal inception, the Ally Group will take a notable step toward heightened visibility — and official student organization status — by ratifying a constitution.

"The time is right for the Ally Group to evolve," says Matt Longman '91, dean of Wonnacott Commons.

The group was established in 1992 by a handful of faculty and staff members to provide support and advocacy for the College's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning (GLBTQ) community. Since then, it has expanded to include student allies.

Longman was instrumental in getting the ally program off the ground and is now working to ensure its survival. "The ebb and flow [of interest in the group] is not satisfactory," he says. "The group should be alive and well year after year." With 45 first-years expressing interest in the allies at the activities fair in September and 40 people attending the group's first "official" meeting during Coming Out Week, momentum is building.

The allies' mission, says Longman, is "to ensure that Middlebury is not a cold, silent climate" for members of the GLBTQ community. Despite recent strides toward greater visibility for gay and bisexual Middlebury students, the College on the Hill is still not immune to homophobia. "It is still a climate where it's typical when moqa hangs posters for the majority of them to be torn down," Longman says. "It's really not a good sign."

The Ally Group is out to change that by broadening the base of students aware of GLBTQ issues. With student organization status will come a budget from the College's Finance Committee — something the group has done without until now — to sponsor lectures, parties, films and other events on campus. Such events, says White, "will get discus-

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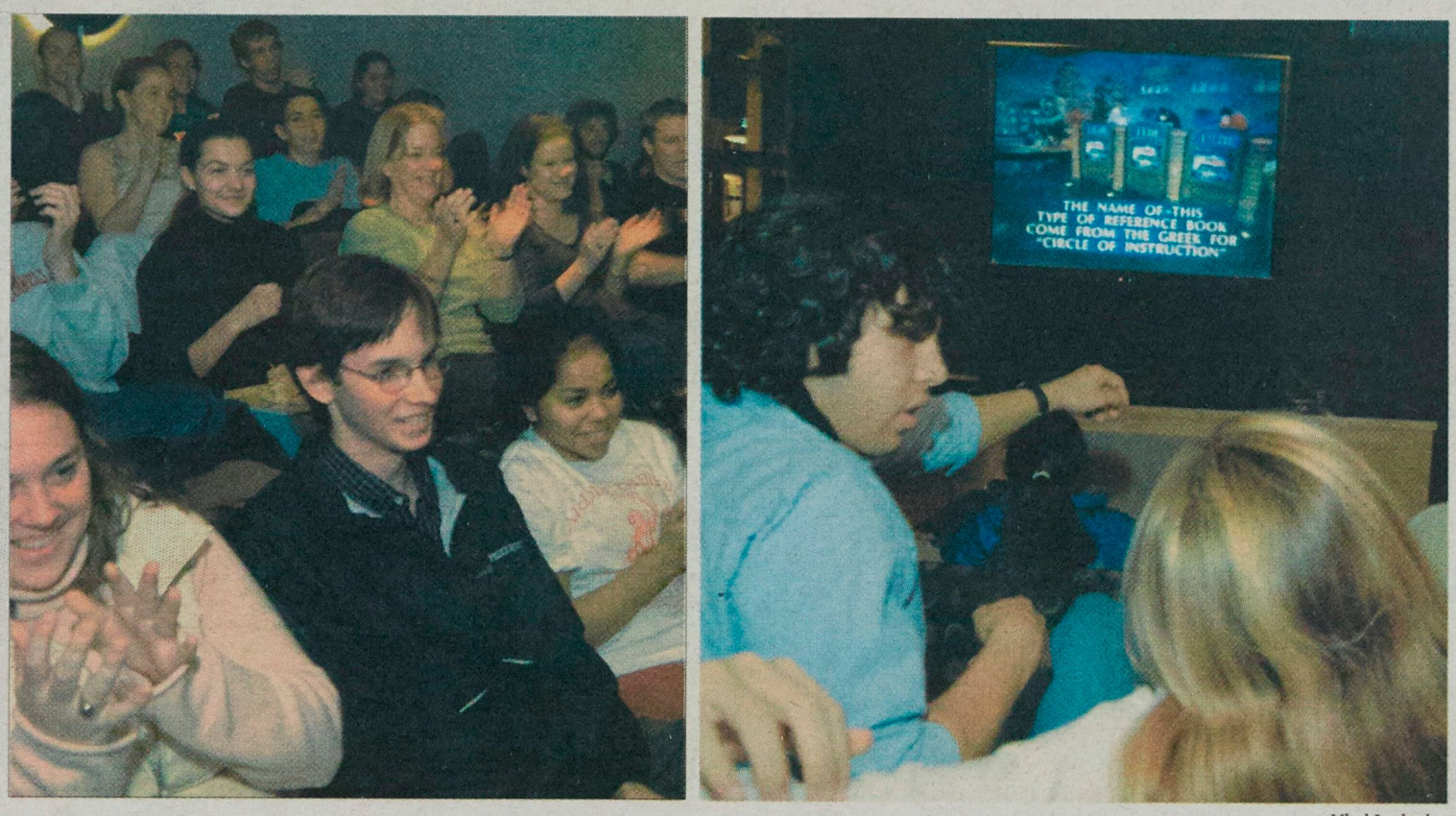
MIDDKID JEOPARDY



Vlad Lodoaba

Watching Jeopardy with his adoring fans, *Keith Williams '07 (left) joins fellow Middlebury students in The Grille during Tuesday night's airing of "College Jeopardy" on which Williams beat out students from Wake Forest and University of Southern California to advance to the final round.*

LaRouche Visit Sparks Political Dialogue

By Caroline Stauffer
FEATURES EDITOR

United States Presidential hopeful Lyndon LaRouche spoke on Friday at Middlebury College as part of a series sponsored by the College Democrats.

The 2004 election marks the 80-year-old's eighth bid for the presidency.

Leaders of the College Democrats said they hoped to ignite political discourse on campus by hosting a more controversial speaker, following earlier visits by representatives of the Howard Dean and John Kerry campaigns.

"The goal in bringing LaRouche to campus was to stimulate political discussion on this somewhat politically apathetic campus and eventually increase political participation and awareness," College Democrats co-chair Jon Brand '05.5 said.

Indeed, the club's decision to host LaRouche certainly came under fire.

The announcement of LaRouche's invitation drew several e-

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MiddBriefs

by Joshua Carson, Ilyse Mehlman and Myra Palmero

Debate Tournament Takes over BiHall

Debate teams from across the Northeast converged on Bicentennial Hall this weekend to participate in an American Parliamentary Debate Associate tournament hosted by the Middlebury Debate Society (MDS). Because Middlebury hosted the event, the team was not able to participate in the actual debates, but instead acted as judges.

The final round pitted Harvard against Boston University but after a seven to two decision passed by the Middlebury judges, Boston University walked away with the victory.

The event hosted 32 debate pairs from Cornell, Brown, Boston University, Vassar, Hamilton, Brandeis, Amherst, Williams, Wesleyan, Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who participated in the "Oktoberfest in November" themed tournament.

Capped by a catered banquet from Dog Team Tavern and a party with a live performance by Penelope, debaters argued over topics ranging from "global politics to questions of constitutional law to hypothetical moral dilemmas," according to Vice President of MDS Andrew Gustafson '04. While the issues were heavy, Gustafson promises that "the atmosphere was very relaxed and informal, though that is not to say the actual debate rounds were any less intense."

The tournament was organized into five rounds followed by quarterfinals, semifinals and a final round. The two opposing teams were split – one formulating the argument for the government and the other for the opposition.

The government team is allotted 10 minutes to prepare and organize an argument, which it then presents to the opposition, who must make a statement and rebuttal without any prior knowledge of the topic. Teams are awarded points based on "organization, compelling speaking style, confidence, clarity, good analysis and sound logical argumentation," said Gustafson. Overall, Gustafson concluded, "most of the rounds were marked by good humor and spirited engagement."

Seniors Nominated as Rhode Scholar Candidates

Three seniors, Douglas Haber '04, Simon Isaacs '04 and Joseph Palombo '04, were nominated as candidates for the 2004 Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University.

Granted to exemplary students in all facets of academic and extracurricular life who maintain a GPA of 3.7 and higher, Rhodes scholarships honor the ideal student.

Every year, 32 American students between the ages of 18 and 24 are awarded the scholarships, which allow them to study at Oxford for two years. In the past, Middlebury students have been awarded the scholarships in 1980, 1989, 1993 and 1994. Since 1998 Middlebury has sent one or two of its students to district interviews annually. Because of the frequency of its students ending up as Rhodes finalists, Middlebury has recently been surveyed as part of a study that looked into the life and work of former Rhodes Scholars.

To apply for the scholarship, students must first be nominated by the College. The current Rhodes nominees have gone through a screening process performed by the British Scholarship Selection Committee, consisting of Professor of English Elizabeth Napier, Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science Murray Dry, Associate Professor of Economics Peter Matthews and Professor of History Paul Monod.

The committee reviewed initial applications and conducted selection interviews to determine whether the students were qualified for a formal application. The initial application consists of five to eight letters of recommendation, a 1,000-word personal statement, a mock interview and a list of activities.

Students are encouraged to apply at the time when their application appears most competitive, because winning a Rhodes scholarship through a second application is difficult.

On Nov. 19, the three candidates attended the Rhodes scholarship state interviews.

Vandalism Plagues New Dorms

While many students boogied to 80s hits in Ross Dinning Hall during "Viva Ross Vegas" last Saturday night, others took to vandalizing college property within Ross Commons.

Assistant Director for Administration for the Department of Public Safety Melody Perkins said, "At approximately 12:15 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16, one of our officers was patrolling Milliken, Hadley, Kelly, Lang and Ross when she came upon vandalized college property in several areas of the complex. On the third floor of Hadley, she found a broken wall mount hallway light."

Perkins confirmed that three more hallway lights were found broken outside of the fitness area. At around 2:00 a.m., another patrolling officer came across further damage. An exit sign was torn from the ceiling of Hadley's first floor and ceiling tiles were broken and strewn all over the hallway. Another wall mount lighting fixture was broken.

Later a third officer identified a student in the process of committing an act of vandalism.

So who will pay for the necessary repairs? Perkins said, "The student who was observed damaging College property outside of the complex will be responsible for that damage." Ross Commons Dean Janine Clookey was unavailable to answer questions regarding the overall costs of the damage and who will pay for repairs.

Campus Politics Proliferate

Debate Continues with Liberals and Elections

By Daniel Phillips
News Editor

Last year, there were on average four members at the College Democrats' bimonthly meetings. Currently boasting a total of 87 names on their mailing list — a number that surpasses membership of many political organizations at Middlebury — the College Democrats are proof that political activism is a new trend on campus.

The liberal presence of Lyndon LaRouche, presidential hopeful, was felt on campus long before his visit here last Friday, which placed many skeptical Middlebury eyes on their College Democrats who sponsored his visit.

"We are really setting up a new chapter here, and the event of this past weekend was the jumpstart," said Jonathan Brand '05.5, co-chair of the club.

By bringing events like these to the College community, the campus liberals have recently basked in a surge in interest, attracting record numbers of students including new seniors. Brand noted that some first-years have already filled leadership positions for the Democrats, making them more likely to remain onboard for four years. "That's where you get a strong organization on campus," said Brand.

On assuming club-wide support of issues such as abortion, income taxes or gun control, Brand noted they have yet to distribute a memo on such policies. "That's not where we are in terms of a club," Brand said.

He claimed that the vast majority of members harbor different political views, but that the group's mantra promotes political activity and political awareness. "We are really more about promoting the Democratic process. The idea that Democrats are the majority [on campus] is somewhat justified by the people who go here. It makes for an interesting debate," he said.

Defending Liberal Labels

Brand echoed the position of Tabby Connor '05, president of the College Republicans, in his belief that the Middlebury campus is not so much apathetic as it is unaware. "That does not — and should not — hinder anyone, especially at a campus with such open policies. You are not going to know all of the information unless you actively pursue it," said Brand. He described the most common response he receives concerning political activism at Middlebury as, "This is where I'm coming from and this where I want to go."

"In my experience," said Brand, "I feel like people do not hesitate to speak up about political issues. This is a pretty accepting campus."

Fellow Co-Chair of the College Democrats Laura Kelly '06 agreed with Brand's observations. "The forum of class discussion at Middlebury is tolerant and respectful of a plethora of ideas," she affirmed.

There is a commonly held perception that Vermont has a liberal identity, but Brand sees Vermont as "politically progressive, active and aware." He said the engaging political environment "gives every club the chance to get off campus." Brand explained, "Once you get the real world feeling, you get the idea of what you need to accomplish on campus."

On the Agenda

Apart from LaRouche's campus-wide address, the College Democrats have also hosted other awareness speeches at their meetings such as Addison County's Howard Dean campaign organizer Amy Morsman, campus representative for the Kerry campaign Chris Shields '04, Clare Studwell '04 for Teach for America and Liz Lyon '06.5 for the Prisoner's Rights Group.

Kelly noted that the club is working to make absentee ballots more accessible to students. They have been collaborating with the College Progressives and the College Republicans to increase voter registration on campus. Preparations have also been made for a legislative breakfast in April.

The club also embarked on an e-mail campaign called Head Start, chaired by Arielle Knudsen '06. The campaign "tried to address the issue that President Bush wants states to take away federal standards and oversight of the Head Start Program," said Kelly.

Knudsen's campaign attempted to make representatives aware that states strapped for cash might be tempted to cut corners on such a successful program, according to Kelly.

The club has recently compiled a Democratic campaign binder that "identifies the numerous candidates running for the Democratic Presidential Primary and summarizes their platform," said Kelly.

2004 Presidential Election

With calendars turned to election month, presidential campaign fervor is already budding on campus. According to Eric Davis, professor of political science and secretary of the College, "The student vote will be very important in the 2004 election. Because the 'baby boom echo' generation is now of voting age, there will be more first-time voters — voters between the ages of 18 and 21 years old — in 2004 than in any previous election in our history."

As part of the club's guidelines, according to Brand, the College Democrats are not permitted to collectively endorse a candidate until the end of the primary elections after the Democratic National Committee has chosen their front-runner. Kelly elaborated, "The Middlebury College Democrats do not have a unified stance on a variety of issues because we value the different opinions that our members have."

It has been difficult for the club to form one solid opinion because many of its members are working for various Presidential campaigns. However, Brand added that their participation "makes it less intimidating for people to get involved." As co-chair of the campus Democrats, Brand cannot say who he will support personally, so he must take more of an objective look at the election.

From the campus Conservative's standpoint, Connor pointed out that many of the Democratic presidential platforms emerge in reaction to the Bush campaign and how it should be reformed. She expects nearly every member of the College Republicans to back Bush in the next presidential election. However, Vermont primaries do not occur until three to four months before the elections.

Last month, Harvard University's Institute of Politics released a poll of 1,202 college students nationwide. The results showed that President Bush's approval rating has not declined since April and that he is currently favored by 61 percent of undergraduates, which is about 10 points higher than the general public.

The Harvard poll also mirrors earlier results taken from the University of California at Los Angeles, that indicated that 31 percent identify themselves as Republican, 27 percent Democrats and 38 percent filling out the Independent or unaffiliated contingency.

Davis published an Op-ed column in *The Addison County Independent*, in which he claimed, "The principal explanation for what appear to be the internal contradictions in this poll — general support of George W. Bush coupled with serious reservations about his Administration's policy in Iraq — is that students do not consider 'agreeing with me on the issues' or 'being attuned to the problems and needs of young people' as primary considerations in their judgment of presidential candidates."

More than two-thirds of the students surveyed are registered to vote, and over 80 percent plan to vote in 2004 and think their participation will "make a difference in the Presidential election," as the press release claimed.

Davis told an interviewer from WCAX Channel 3 News two weekends ago, "If Howard Dean ends up as the Democratic presidential nominee that President Bush would probably win 35 to 40 states and over 400 electoral votes." With the exception of New Hampshire, Davis does not see Dean winning any states outside New England, New York, Washington D.C., Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Washington, Oregon and probably California, since Schwarzenegger's win in the recall election shows more Republican tendencies than some analysts thought.

Davis also suspects that the Middlebury student opinion about Bush might reflect the regions of the country they are from. "I believe Bush would beat any of the leading Democratic presidential contenders, although Gephardt would probably be more competitive in some Midwestern states, such as Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri, while Edwards would be more competitive in some southern states, such as Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida," said Davis.

By analyzing the Bush-Gore exit poll data from November 2000, the map provides these results: Republicans won the West, South and Midwest, while Democrats won the Northeast, the West Coast and several Midwest industrial states.

Davis felt this might explain why student opinion at the most highly selective colleges and universities, such as the Ivies or NESCACs, might be very different from the national student opinion reported in the Harvard poll.

College-Centric Courses Explore Middlebury Themes

By Pierce Graham-Jones
Magazine Senior Editor

Embroiled somewhere in the vicinity of the recent debate about the worth of Winter Term is a surge of Winter Term course offerings centered on aspects of Middlebury College. These are courses that could never be offered at another college — not because of some unmatchable Middlebury resource or innovation, but because the courses treat a portion of the institution within which they are taught. In fiction, it's called metafiction. In life, metaphysics. Does the concept of meta-academics work?

NEWS ANALYSIS

According to Lecturer in English & Film and Media Culture Don Mitchell, "The tragedy… is that such opportunities don't present themselves more often." He is referring to opportunities such as that embodied in his course, "The Modern Novel at Middlebury," which will critically examine the novels of five Middlebury professors. This course, along with "The Collegiate Way of Living: Middlebury's Commons in Historical Context" and "Middlebury College and American Higher Education" deliver the newest, and largest, semester's worth of Middlebury College's offerings focused on Middlebury College.

This phenomenon traces back to the Winter Term of 1999, when Professor of History Jim Ralph first taught "Middlebury College and American Higher Education." The following year, three courses were offered under the heading "Middlebury and the Bicentennial" — Ralph's course, " 'The Town's College:' The Practice of Local History" and "Diversity at Middlebury: An Historical View."

After nearly 205 academic years, Middlebury professors have only implemented self-examination as a subject of course studies in the past five. Inevitable questions arise: "Does this trend make sense? Should subject matter be mixed with the academia within which it is taught?"

Nobody interviewed for this article saw a reason why it should not. In fact, they rallied behind the idea. As Scott Kleiman '06, co-chair of Ross Commons Council and future student in "The Collegiate Way of Living," said, "Contrary to detracting from my ability to examine the subject matter, I think that my (and Middlebury's) experience with the commons will allow students to tie the theoretical aspects of the class into the real-life occurrences at Midd, thus furthering the depth of examination."

His instructor-to-be Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology Robert O'Hara takes this one step further, arguing that individual experience with the subject matter is integral: "I would hope very much that [the students] will bring their personal experiences and ideas to the course so I will be able to learn from them and they will be able to learn from each other. Only through the collision of ideas, as John Stuart Mill says, will our understanding advance," he said. This, however, might be the very problem. A typical class of Middlebury students would have had much more similar direct experience with the commons system than they will have had with "world poverty," one of the possible topics of "Contemporary Moral Issues," a course which also depends upon a collision of students' ideas. Usually, as a consequence of Middlebury's commitment to diversity, students will bring much different experience, both in breadth and type, to any given subject matter. This diversity is partially expunged when the subject matter is the one thing that the classmates all have in common — Middlebury College.

With Mitchell's course, on the other hand, one of the major purposes of the course is to familiarize students with an aspect of Middlebury that they have not been exposed to — the literary creations of their professors. And he is quick to acknowledge the obvious objection. "I suppose someone might be wary that the level of critical engagement with 'home-team' texts would tend to be superficial and somewhat laudatory and self-congratulatory. But anyone who would feel that way must obviously a) not know me, and my style of teaching, and b) must not understand that serious writers thrive not on obsequious adulation, but on being read seriously and considered with critical acumen by engaged and intelligent readers." However, since the grouping of authors and their novels is based solely on Middlebury College (not a traditional point of literary comparison), their grouping could be interpreted as literarily artificial. Thus, insofar as it is a course of critical examination, it cannot be as coherent as a carefully arranged examination of, say, "The Realistic Novel." At the very least, it is a variation on the professor's usual method of composing a syllabus based on books of particular interest or connectivity to him or her within a literary genre or era.

Ralph sees his course as a "window" into the subject of higher education "through the prism of Middlebury College." That is both the innovation, and the dilemma, of all three of these courses. There are great advantages to using material that is close at hand — Mitchell notes that "many or most of the authors we'll be reading are planning to attend a class meeting to directly answer questions about their work" and Ralph and O'Hara will both be able to draw from the benefit of all of their students having had personal experience with the subject matter. But there are also potential sacrifices.

The ultimate priority will be to acknowledge the process of self-examination. Assistant Professor of English Timothy Billings agrees that it makes sense to mix subject matter with the academia within which it is taught "insofar as the best intellectual inquiry always includes within its scope the conditions under which that inquiry is undertaken."

Orientation Trip Revisions Await Student Input

By Benjamin Salkowe
Staff Writer

A committee of students and administrators reviewing the role of orientation trips within the first-year orientation program has opted to postpone their final recommendations for the time being and solicit student opinion via an online survey.

Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson said last Friday, "We have not reached any decisions yet. We hope to [collect] enough input from students to have some idea of how they feel."

When word first broke of the administration's overhaul of orientation, there was a fear that the orientation trips might be cut or severely limited.

Hanson's remarks suggest that the question is not whether there will be trips, but where they will fall within orientation. "CCAL (Center for Campus Activities and Leadership) is hoping to get student input before a final decision is made about when the trips will occur," she noted.

Middlebury Mountain Club President Michelle Long '04 sees the discussions as a beneficial to Middlebury Outdoor Orientation (MOO) trips. "There are a lot of positive consequences that can come out of changing our trips program, such as having longer trips available and creating more of a spectrum of trips available." Long pointed to "investigation of other schools' programs and student feedback" as the best methods for revising orientation trips.

Derek Doucet, assistant director of campus activities for annual events and outdoor programs, is the administrator directly responsible for the MOO trips. Doucet agreed with Long and pointed out that, despite the uniquely bovine spirit of Middlebury's MOO trips, MOO was inspired by similar programs at other schools and the committee is now looking to those schools for guidance. "Orientation trips have been around since the 1930's. Dartmouth was one of the earliest," he said.

Courtesy

Students who went on MOO trips last fall may be the last to experience them in their current form.

The Dartmouth Outdoor Club Trips, established in 1935, are actually pre-orientation trips that occur before the official college orientation. Individual groups go out at separate dates for five-day trips in early September. As groups return to campus, the students move into their dorms, sometimes more than a week before the College's official orientation.

This is a situation Long says the administration would like to avoid. "Middlebury wants us to have one campus opening for first-years, which means that if we do a pre-orientation type of trip we will not be able to use the campus." She said an issue of discussion for the program has been finding off-campus base camps from which MOO could operate.

However, Long is concerned that offering the MOO trips before the official orientation could prevent some students from being able to participate.

"By having the trips program not a part of orientation week, I fear that we are deemphasizing the importance of this experience and that not all first-years will be able to participate," she said.

Nonetheless, the Dartmouth Web site claims that more than 85 percent of incoming students participate in the trips, although often students who live in the Northeast must go home after their trip and return a week later for orientation.

Doucet said the proposals, which students will review in the survey, attempt to "preserve the orientation trips, but they will no longer be embedded."

The student survey is expected to go online before Thanksgiving recess. "The committee is hoping to make some recommendations to me by Thanksgiving and then I need to discuss them with the Provost and the President," Hanson said.

Long is clear on the MMC stance. "I think the ideal situation would be for us to incorporate new ideas into our already excellent trips program and not change the timing of the program," she said.

Most students simply want to see MOO preserved for future incoming first-years. Matthew Volz '07 sees the trips as a means to meet other students outside of his commons. "We met a lot of people from different dorms."

Pascal Losambe '07 is passionate about the importance of MOO. He said, "All the kids with their backpacks and boots – it's good, it's just a beautiful thing."

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

by Nicolas Emery

Recently I had the opportunity to travel to Paris with a planeload of Italian tourists. Now I'm sure most of us are familiar with the stereotypical American tourist, and I dare say may have even participated in propagating that notoriously ignorant and obnoxiously loud stereotype throughout the world. Interested in comparing the Italian variety to what I know of the Americans, I observed them closely during our journey together on Ryanair from Milan-Bergamo airport to Paris-Beauvais.

As far as I could tell, I was one of two Americans on the flight to Paris. Fortunately, this allowed me to observe the Italians in their natural habitat, without outside contamination. We sat awaiting our plane at the designated gate while the time for departure approached when an announcement shook me from my furtive observations. There had been a change of gates. A collective cry of indignation and sheer outrage immediately rose from the masses, quickly followed by a torrent of raised voices spouting unintelligible Italian. The herd galloped to the new gate and clustered around the one poor, poor woman manning it. This woman had the pitiless job of dealing with a mob of indignant Italians on vacation. Needless to say, Italians do not form lines. They simply cluster around their objective point like a swarm of bees around the queen.

Eventually the chaos subsided and resulted in everyone happily seated onboard the plane. We landed in Beauvais airport after an uneventful jump over the Alps and soon I was picking up my bag at the baggage claim. There I noticed how helpful everyone was to each other — more often than not, complete strangers would help others heft their bags off the conveyor belt. Nobody hesitated to ask others for help and nobody hesitated in assisting. I have noticed this impressive quality in many other aspects of Italian life as well. Italian university students commonly ask to photocopy each other's notes if they're missing a few days or weeks of class — and this doesn't happen just between friends, anyone is fair game.

When everybody's bags were sorted out we found that an hour and a half ride on a bus separated us from Paris. Another mob formed around the one working the ticket machine, and after 15 minutes of heated discussion interspersed with shouting, everyone had figured out the French ticket machine and migrated outside to find six busses lined up. After considerable confusion regarding which was the correct bus to the city, the horde was safely seated on the bus and en route.

The Italians, of whom I had grown quite fond of at this point, ooohed and ahhhed in chorus at the shockingly yellow foliage of the trees in the height of autumn and the lush green fields in the French countryside. Meanwhile, I put on my GianMarcoVenturi sunglasses and smiled, thinking how glad I was to feel a part of this crazy group of Italian tourists on their way to Paris. The Italian man behind me said, "Do we speak English now? It's all different here…"

SGA Beer Bill Tabled Until Further Research Is Conducted

By Thomas Drescher
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) tabled a proposed amendment to Middlebury College's alcohol policy on Sunday night, postponing the vote until some details have been worked out. The resolution, designed by SGA President Sam Rodriguez '05 and Press Secretary Andrew Carnabuci '06, would allow students of legal age to drink single containers of beer in lounges around campus.

According to a draft of the proposal, "Middlebury students of legal drinking age should be able to consume single containers of beer in dormitory lounges." Section one states that "any such amendment to the alcohol policy must be cautious and strict."

Rodriguez explained that the legislation was constructed expressly to avoid undermining current alcohol regulations. The amendment would allow an of-age student to consume one container of beer in a lounge, provided that the number of people in the room does not exceed seating capacity, the student is seated and has in his or her possession both a MiddCard and a government-issued identification card. The stringent stipulations of this resolution are, in Rodriguez's opinion, necessary to avoid disrupting current policy.

Section four of the proposal reads: "It is the belief of this governing body that such an amendment to the Middlebury College Alcohol Policy will promote only moderate, responsible drinking among those students of legal drinking age."

The "Rationale" section explains, "It is in the interest of the College to promote responsible consumption of alcohol among those members of our community. This amendment to the Alcohol Policy will promote such activity."

Regarding this justification, Rodriguez said after the meeting, "TV lounges are TV lounges, not silent study lounges. I am confident that, were this bill to pass, the only real effect would be that more people would take advantage of these spaces. That's a good thing. It builds community. I do not think that these spaces would become especially raucous. Middlebury students are capable of drinking responsibly."

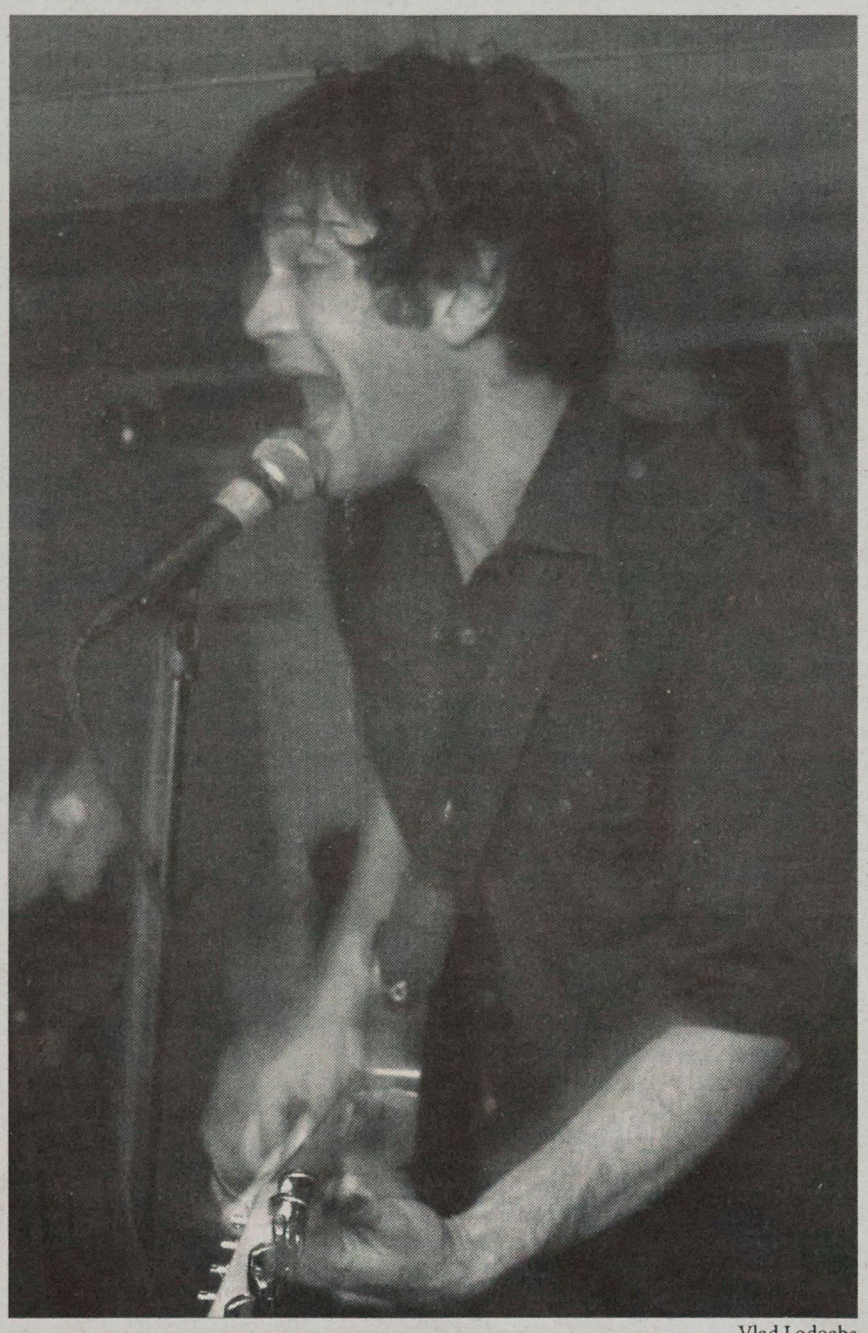
Rodriguez's presentation of his proposal and the rationale behind it elicited a variety of reactions at Sunday night's meeting. Cook Senator Siddhartha Rao '04 spoke up in support of the proposal, while Junior Half-Year Senator Susanna Gorski '05.5 expressed serious doubts regarding the positive and negative implications of such a policy amendment. "The lounges on smaller halls, which tend to be quieter, will be changed from quiet study areas into loud lounges," said Gorski. "I do not feel that the appropriate amount of research has been made in order to make this resolution feasible and practical."

Gorski added that she would consider supporting the resolution if certain changes were made. "I would like to see [the proposal] modified with a detailed list of which lounges qualify," she asserted. Gorski added that she would also like to see how the College's definitions of public and private spaces affect the proposed amendment, an issue raised by Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson.

Hanson pointed out that the amendment would be redundant if current alcohol policy defines TV lounges as private spaces, a matter that is currently being researched. She also advised SGA members to consider the effects of this amendment with respect to Vermont State Law and possible encounters with the state liquor inspector.

Of the results of the SGA Senate meeting, Rodriguez said, "As far as I am concerned, the Senate simply exercised healthy caution. Dean Hanson made some very helpful suggestions, and they all deserve our attention. This will require further research. Thus, although gratification will be delayed, I am very optimistic about the future of this agenda item."

Indie Underground



Vlad Lodoaba

Rocking out in Forest Basement, *vocalist and guitarist Max Tepper of The Natural History played a short set last Saturday night after an opening performance by Penelope.*

At SGA Forum, Students Stand Together on Winter Term Debate

By Megan O'Keefe
News Editor

Students who attended the Student Government Association's (SGA) first forum on Winter Term held Nov. 17 expressed unanimous support for the continuation of the current calendar.

Chair of the Student Educational Affairs Committee (SEAC) Stephen Clarke '04.5 moderated the meeting, which was attended by approximately 30 students including SGA President Sam Rodriguez '04 and Student Co-Chair of Community Council Erin Sullivan '04.5.

Clarke began the meeting by soliciting student input. "We have our thoughts on J-term but we want to hear from you," said Clarke. "We could very well be headed towards two 14-week semesters with no J-term. It's the student input that will make that vote go one way or another."

Students shared varied responses, but agreed overwhelmingly that Winter Term is a vital part of the Middlebury student experience. While some students argued that Middlebury's 4-1-4 calendar sets the school apart during the college search process, SGA Press Secretary Andrew Carnabucci '06 shared a different point of view. "It wasn't a big factor in my decision to come here, but it was a big factor in my deciding to stay here. Friendships I made in J-term are now my strongest."

Students discussed the academic benefits of Winter Term during the forum, focusing heavily on the perceived benefits of concentrating intensively on only one subject for a month. Andrew May '05 said, "Middlebury, to a large degree, teaches you how to cut corners. But in J-term you can just do one thing." Rodriguez spoke enthusiastically of Winter Term as a space to experiment and explore new academic interests. Describing his initial reaction to Winter Term when he learned about the calendar from a Middlebury admissions officer, Rodriguez said, "That's fantastic. I might be an econ major that takes a dance class."

Other students pointed to Winter Term as a time for internship opportunities and unique academic experiences. "It's really the one place where real life experience comes into the curriculum," May said.

Among other concerns raised at the forum was the way a calendar change might limit study abroad. Because fall terms at many European universities conclude at the end of January, Middlebury students may be unable to study abroad during the fall semester if they must return to Middlebury to begin spring classes in the middle of January.

Social and extracurricular themes were also discussed during the forum. Sullivan pointed out, "You expand yourself academically as well as extracurricularly." Asher Burns-Burg '05 attempted to dispel the myth that students are inactive during Winter Term, saying, "I was so busy. But it was a different kind of busy. I played on 5 intramural teams."

Students noted that the term is a time to build friendships and meet new people, often in classes that meet intensively and act as a "bonding" experience. "It is the most social term even inside the classroom," said Kathrin Schwesinger '06.

When SEAC member Mary Clare Feldman '04 solicited criticisms of Winter Term, students were thoughtful and forthcoming. Some students noted the existence of academically non-rigorous classes that should be filtered out of the course offerings, but they were quick to point out that this is not the responsibility of the students.

Jimmy Hickey '05 said, "I feel like there are a lot of professors I really would like to see teach a class during J-term and they don't."

Clarke concluded the meeting by sharing with students a brief outline of the preliminary two-semester calendar drawn up by the faculty Educational Affairs Committee. Clarke revealed that in one tentative two-semester calendar fall classes would begin the day after Labor Day. Students and faculty would likely have a weeklong break at Thanksgiving with two to three weeks of classes after the break before an exam period that would be shortened from eight days to about six. Winter break would start slightly later than it currently does but will extend until around Jan. 19. Spring break will probably remain one week long, making commencement fall one to two weeks earlier than at present.

Students also shared opinion on a Winter Term structure that would require students to complete three out of four Winter Terms. Student opinion was mixed on this possible change, but many were maintaining the current requirement. "It's the one part of the academic year that students are excited about," one student concluded.

Dean Byerly Dispels Winter Term Rumors

As discussion on the future of Winter Term continues on campus, speculation mounts as to what calendar could replace the current system. Dean of Faculty, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of English Alison Byerly said that the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) plans to submit a proposal regarding Winter Term to the faculty sometime in January.

At that point, faculty members can propose amendments to the options presented, or submit their own idea. The Student EAC, led by Stephen Clarke '04.5, is currently working with the EAC, offering input to help develop options.

"We are still looking at several alternative proposals," Byerly said. "The EAC's proposal will represent the best way to address the Winter Term Issue."

There are several components to the Winter Term issue to be considered:

- Any change decided upon this year would not take effect for another four years at the least. "It will not be a sudden, dramatic change," said Byerly. "If [Middlebury] went to a two-semester system, changes to several other aspects of the curriculum would have to take place as well."
- Current possibilities include switching the calendar to a two 14-week semester system and reshaping Winter Term.
- Aspects of Winter Term being considered for revision include decreasing the number of Winter Terms students are required to take — fewer required Winter Terms means that less courses would have to be offered each term — and modifying distribution and curriculum requirements to compensate for changes made.
- The faculty will vote to make the final decision regarding Winter Term from a curriculum standpoint. Officially, however, the Board of Trustees must approve any changes made to the College Calendar.
- While the costs associated with Winter Term are significant, the primary reason to alter the 4-1-4 system is not budgetary.
- The EAC is not considering options that would restrict instructional time.
- A change to a two 14-week semester calendar likely means that there would be a longer winter and/or Thanksgiving break.

Byerly asserts that this review of Winter Term is about the curriculum. "Students feel it is about a lifestyle change," she said. "The faculty mostly considers the academic aspects. The courses offered have to be sufficiently challenging to justify the break between fall and spring, [they] have to be worthy of the Middlebury curriculum."

Students, Faculty, Alumni React to Democrat-Sponsored Speaker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mails from alumni and objections by students and professors.

"We knew that he was a controversial candidate, but we were not fully prepared for some of the backlash that we received via alumni e-mails," Brand said.

An atmosphere of nervous anticipation surrounded Chateu Grand Salon prior to LaRouche's speech. Some students sat holding newspaper clippings eagerly awaiting the opportunity to question LaRouche on some of his policy stances, while campaign supporters were positioned around the perimeter, surveying the audience. Both campaign literature and anti-LaRouche flyers were circulating through the small room, which was filled to capacity.

According to College Democrats co-chair Laura Kelly '06 the presentation was "all on his [LaRouche's] budget."

Kelly opened the event by introducing Bruce Marshall, who had put the group in touch with the LaRouche campaign.

"The lecture does not reflect the beliefs of the College Democrats," Kelly said. She also explained that the forum following LaRouche's speech would be moderated by having the audience write questions on index cards instead of moving directly to open dialogue.

Marshall began by pointing out that Middlebury College was the first institution in the nation to call for the abolition of slavery, which demonstrates "a historically significant message of fair play," he said.

He continued the slavery metaphor by suggesting that the state of modern politics could be interpreted as "slavery against the mind."

"The life passion of LaRouche," he said, "was to remedy these evils."

LaRouche's speech focused mainly on the "unnecessary war" with Iraq and what he called an "economic crisis."

LaRouche claimed U.S. involvement in Iraq was "designed by civilian nuts who don't know what they are doing." The entire operation, he said, is "under the grip of the Vice President [Dick Cheney]," who he called a neo-conservative with imperialist designs for the United States.

LaRouche's second point was that the United States is in an economic crisis comparable to the situations in 1928 and 1933. He cited 1963 as the height of American economic power, but since then, he said, "we have destroyed our society and our culture."

"We are bankrupt," he proclaimed. LaRouche blames the current state of affairs on "post-industrial society," a non-productive "40 years of folly."

He also drew widely on historical examples throughout his talk, likening the United States' current position to that of Greece after the Peloponnesian War.

LaRouche's final point was that "informed youth are the most effective per capita political force in America." He claimed that his youth league in Los Angeles "almost stopped Schwarzenegger." The reason for the tremendous power of youth, LaRouche said, is the influence youth have over their parents to "get them to correct their mistakes." He also urged the continual pursuit of knowledge, especially through the study of history.

During the open question period, LaRouche was interrogated about his alleged anti-Semitism, racism and conspiracy theories.

LaRouche denied the accusations, claiming the citations had either been misquoted or were entirely fabricated.

Some members of the College community believed LaRouche should not have been allowed to deliver his talk on campus, given his position as a convicted felon for mail fraud and conspiracy. In fact, LaRouche ran his 1992 campaign from prison. Thus, LaRouche cannot even vote for himself.

Mike Crowley '05 handed out anti-LaRouche flyers at the lecture.

"The talk did accomplish the goals of the College Democrats for the students from Middlebury. Certainly, there was a lot of debate afterwards," Crowley said. "As neat an opportunity as it was, I think it reflects poorly on us."

Crowley's main concern was the College's linkage to the event. He believes it would have been better if LaRouche had spoken in town to eliminate any connections.

"Regardless of what the College thinks about his policy, there is almost a tacit support if you allow someone to come in," Crowley said. "I don't think we should associate with someone whose ideas are so hateful and dangerous. We shouldn't be linked to anything close to what he espouses."

"As a demagogue and convicted felon, Lyndon LaRouche is highly unlikely to promote meaningful discussion of serious issues," Director of the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs and Professor of Political Science Allison Stanger said. "I do not object to his right to speak on campus, but I do object to the College promoting and endorsing his talk on its main Web page."

The LaRouche campaign also had its own complaints about the event.

"The problem that arose was that the College Democrats came under severe stress because they sponsored the forum," said Angela Vullo, LaRouche's campaign coordinator. "They said it was a free and open forum, but under pressure, they controlled the questions that were all based on slander."

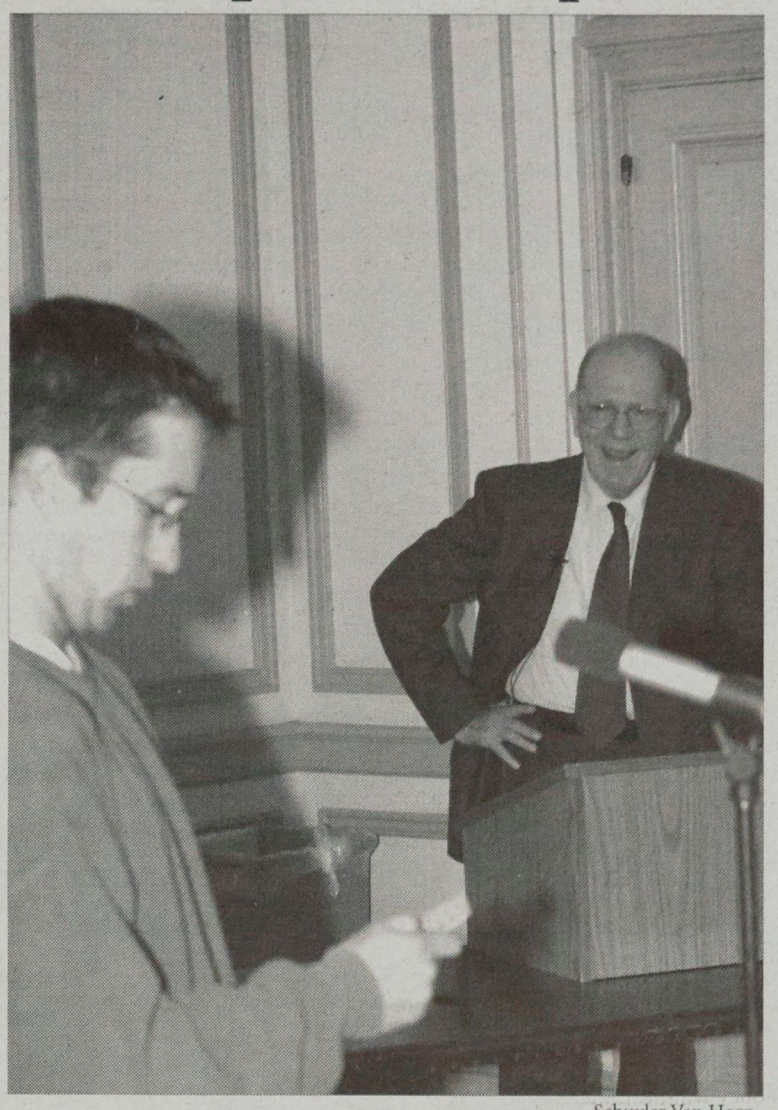
Vullo claimed supporters were "very upset that LaRouche was treated this way."

"The debate and discussion around LaRouche's ideas were completely stifled," Vullo said.

"When the College is ready for an honest, forthright debate to discuss LaRouche's preemptive war policy and his view of the economy," Vullo said, "we recommend that it invite him back."

"There were people in the meeting that were there to ensure that LaRouche's ideas couldn't get out," she said.

"Our purpose [the College Democrats] of bringing LaRouche here was not to offend anyone on campus or involved in some aspect with Middlebury," Brand said. "I think that the response by Middlebury students in coming to the event and challenging him [LaRouche], as well as the response from many alumni, show that there was no support for his racist and xenophobic beliefs, as well as none for his conspiracy theories."



Schuyler Van Horn

Democratic presidential candidate Lydon LaRouche fields a prepared question from Middlebury College student Christopher Sheilds '04.

Allies Promote Awareness of GLBTQ Issues, Dialogue on Sexuality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sion rolling."

The move to transform the Ally Group from a grassroots initiative into a formally recognized organization comes on the heels of several landmark achievements for the GLBTQ community at Middlebury this year. The Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (moqa) has seen a spike in attendance — a solid 20 people at each weekly meeting compared to less than 10 last year — and the symbolic closet constructed by moqa on McCullough Lawn in observance of Coming Out Week this October was not vandalized for the first time since 1997. In addition, the College currently boasts about a dozen "out" faculty members, a far cry from 1992, the year Middlebury hired its first openly gay applicant to a teaching position.

During that same year, then-CRA Longman accompanied faculty and staff members to a conference at the University of Vermont that focused "on assessing your campus' climate towards the gay, lesbian and bisexual community," he explains. With no funding and "a nice spectrum" of interested faculty and staff, the Ally Group quietly debuted.

Over the past decade, allies have provided "safe spaces" — traditionally demarcated by a pink triangle postcard — for community members to talk about sexuality. The group also contributed to the push for domestic partner benefits, advocated for a broader range of "voices" in the annual "Voices of the Class" presentation during first-year orientation and sponsored a number of well-attended panel discussions about homosexuality and sexuality in general.

White says the group has already brainstormed innovative ways to raise awareness of GLBTQ issues on campus. Among the suggestions is an adopt-a-poster program to help prevent GLBTQ-focused fliers from being torn down. "We want to identify genuine, meaningful steps," says Longman, to promote the group's guiding principles of "Support, Education, Advocacy."

"As soon as you add an active group of the majority to advocate for the minority, people listen, and the movement gains momentum," White explains. Straight allies, he says, help the cause by "widening the net of people who start thinking about the subject" to those who would not encounter GLBTQ issues on a regular basis. Nevertheless, White is adamant that the Ally Group does not want a "straight identity." Jillian Weiser '06, co-president of moqa, argues, "You don't have to be straight to be an ally." Being an ally, she continues, can serve as "a step towards coming out," at least in her experience. (She served as an ally in high school.) "You get involved, take a stand, meet people and become aware that there is space and support," she explains.

There is even debate among current members of the Ally Group about whether allies should declare their sexuality at all.

"I sometimes argue against disclosing," affirms Kevin Moss, professor of Russian. "Basically I always find it suspect when people have to come out as straight in the first sentence of a conversation. What, aside from homophobia, would make someone want to do that?"

Xan Williams '03.5, who along with Trilby Reeve '05 is helping White and Longman coordinate the allies' drive toward student organization status, defines an ally as "anyone who supports GLBTQ rights."

The Ally Group's objective, Williams says, is inclusion. "Our goal is to get as many people involved as possible, which means that everyone is welcome," she explains. "If a person needs to identify himself or herself as straight (or otherwise) to feel comfortable putting themselves out as an ally, then that is fine."

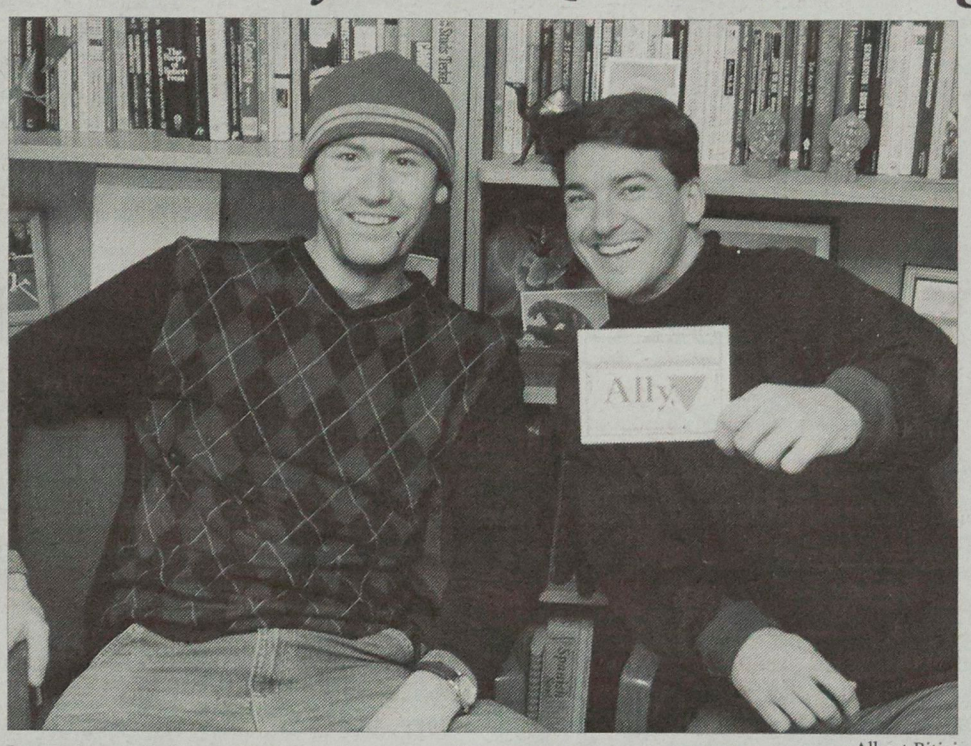
The group will complement moqa, Reeve explains. "The groundwork has been laid by moqa, GLEAM [Gay and Lesbian Employees at Middlebury] and the allies," White says. "When we all work together, I know the environment will start changing."

When the allies gather this evening to discuss and endorse their proposed constitution, they will also begin planning for "J-term and beyond," Longman says.

In five years, White predicts the Ally Group will be "a name on campus."

"People can say WRMC now, and everyone knows what they're talking about. I say I'm doing work for the Ally Group, and people ask, 'What's that?'" White says. "In five years, you'll say that, and people will know."

The Ally Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Ross 3 to discuss its constitution.



Albert Bitici

Freeman White and Matt Longman are driving forces behind the Ally initiative.

CollegeShorts

By Virginia Harper

UCLA Faculty Protest U.S. Education Bill

A new education bill, which passed through the House of Representatives on Oct. 21, has professors at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) worried. The International Studies in Higher Education Act proposes the creation of a committee to monitor and oversee the curriculums and faculty in international studies departments of American colleges and universities and advise Congress on matters of federal funding for these programs.

Proposed by Republican Pete Hoekstra from Michigan, the International Studies Act has received support from Republicans and Democrats alike who point to its strong support of international and language studies in the American university system. Its intention, according to the subcommittee on Select Education, is to make the academic departments accountable for the material that is taught and to guarantee that the material meets the needs of national security.

Opponents of the bill and faculty members of UCLA see it as pressuring the departments to teach courses from a pro-American point of view and specifically targeting professors of Middle Eastern studies. "We will be subject to review from a committee of nonacademics — They will be judging curriculum on the basis of political expediency," said Michael Cooperson, an associate professor of Near Eastern languages and cultures at UCLA. "The students will suffer from it," Cooperson said.

While the committee will refrain from forming a mandatory set of curriculums for universities, it will monitor individual departments at every college. According to the language of the bill, it will oversee "the degree to which activities of centers, programs and fellowships at institutes of higher education advance national interests — and foster debate on American foreign policy from diverse perspectives."

Source: *U-Wire*

Change of Rules Shifts Early Admissions

Substantial shifts in the early admissions applicant numbers at Harvard, Yale and Stanford are suggesting that high school seniors are submitting applications based on a strategy rather than pinpointing a school that fits them best. Both Yale's and Stanford's numbers of applications were up substantially, while Harvard's dropped by half.

A change in early admission policy is blamed for the skewed numbers. The three schools still require that early-admission applicants apply to one school only, but beginning this year, they are allowing early-admitted students to turn down acceptance.

The shifts show the schools leaning towards a medium between a nonbinding early action and early decision. While Harvard's admissions office had previously worked under the early action system, it is now moving towards a stricter policy so that early applicants can only apply to Harvard. Stanford and Yale, both early decision schools, are giving students broader options by allowing them to decline the offer of early admission.

Admissions offices and college counselors have yet to determine the cause for such great differences between this year's numbers and last year's. However, most officers and counselors see progress and a move beyond the great hysteria that infects seniors each fall, arising from an urgent need to apply to an early admissions program to ensure a spot in the class without being sure of any right school.

Janet Lavin Rapelye, dean of admissions at Princeton, said, "I would welcome [students being more thoughtful] over what I see as happening in the field, which is students using an early action program for a strategy."

Source: *CNN.com*

Public Safety Log

Date	Time	Incident	Category	Location	Disposition
11/11/03	Between 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	Collision Hit and Run	Vehicle	H Lot	No Suspects
11/11/03	10:00 p.m.	Theft	Unknown	Hepburn	No Suspect
11/15/03	11:00 p.m.	Alcohol	Unknown	Brackett (Tavern) (OA)	Referred to Commons Dean
11/15/03	11:50 p.m.	Alcohol	Non-Student	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
11/16/03	12:16-12:35 a.m.	Vandalism	Lights, Signs, Ceiling	Hadley	Open
11/16/03	1:05 a.m.	Vandalism	Table	Pearsons	No Suspects
11/16/03	2:20 a.m.	Vandalism	Smoking Materials Trash Can	LaForce	Referred to Commons Dean
11/16/03	2:30 a.m.	Vandalism	Broken Window	637 College Street	No Suspect
11/16/03	3:18 a.m.	Vandalism	Bike and Rack	McCullough Student Center	Referred to Commons Dean
11/16/03	5:30 a.m.	Vandalism	Lamp Post Light	Outside	Open
11/16/03	8:32 a.m.	Vandalism	Lighting and Walls	Ross	Open

After a Break, McCardell Will Return to Teach

Continued from page 1

ministration.

"[McCardell] pioneered the principle that liberal arts learning is enhanced when students have the opportunity to apply what they are studying to issues and problems outside of academia," said Churchill Franklin '71, chair of the Board of Trustees. Franklin added that the board accepted McCardell's decision with "enormous reluctance and regret."

"John had set an ambitious agenda with the commons and the library," said Franklin. "Now they are done and financially supported. He has had wonderful success and he is leaving at the apex, the pinnacle of his accomplishments."

The board will name McCardell president emeritus effective July 1, 2004, and after a year, will elect him trustee emeritus "to make sure that the College will continue to benefit from [McCardell's] experience in office and his knowledge of the institution," said Franklin. "The fact that [McCardell] will be around the College is a source of great comfort," he added.

The College's next president will "inherit a college rich in things, but richer still in spirit," McCardell said in his prepared remarks at Mead Chapel. In his years as president, he has fulfilled much of the vision for the College that he outlined upon becoming president in 1991.

He has presided over the expansion of the College's facilities, most notably in the form of Bicentennial Hall, the new library and the athletic complex. He also increased the size and quality of the faculty and enlarged the student body while still maintaining the academic standards of the College.

McCardell's success in the fundraising arena also defines his leadership. He led the College's Bicentennial fundraising campaign, which generated $200 million. That was followed by a campaign to raise $30 million within eight months, despite the hesitations of the Board. "One of the fun things about the role of president is the ability to be contrary and have the Board support you," he said.

The Board of Trustees hopes to complete the search for McCardell's replacement within seven months, a task that Franklin readily acknowledges is "ambitious." After meeting with search consultants, the Board of Trustees agreed that it is possible, especially because there are not many other Colleges searching for presidential candidates at this time. Franklin said that the Board plans to look both outside and within the College community for McCardell's successor.

When asked if he plans to take part in the search for his successor, McCardell replied, "Absolutely not. I will answer any questions I'm asked, but my role really will not be involved with the search. The trustees will honor process and they will do well by the College. I'm content to let them make their decision."

When he returns from his one-year leave, McCardell does not plan to be active in Old Chapel business. "You want to be helpful," he said, "to do what you can for the institution, but if I thought I would want to be involved in the kind of things that the president does, I would have stayed on as another five years as president."

Instead, in his new role as president emeritus and trustee emeritus, McCardell will do as much or as little as the Board and the new president would want him to do.

He looks forward to concentrating on teaching in his new role as College Professor. "I would love to do a Winter Term," he said. "It would be a lot of fun."

Kaleidoscope Yearbook Staff Calls on Students for Help

By Taylor Johnston
Staff Writer

With an unusually low amount of student support, the *Kaleidoscope*, Middlebury College's yearbook, faces an unmanageable workload and the possibility of having no volume for the year 2004-05.

After losing a pack of seniors to last year's graduation, the *Kaleidoscope* must now forge ahead with only two layout staff members — Editor-in-Chief Connie Winner '06.5 and Laura Wakim '06 — a business manager, a handful of photographers and no new underclassmen filling in to maintain the staff continuity. Winner and Wakim have taken on the bulk of the 350-page work themselves.

"We might be able to get by this year but next year both of us are going abroad," explained Winner. With both of them going away and Business Manager James Black '04 graduating, prospects do not look good for the Class of 2005 annual.

"I can't imagine not having [a yearbook]," adds Wakim. "It is crucial not just at Middlebury, but for the college experience in general."

Winner and Wakim regret that no students seem interested in working to keep the tradition alive at Middlebury. Winner noted that, though the September activity fair generated some initial interest, staff numbers slowly dwindled. "Some [students] even came to meetings, but one by one they dropped."

This lack of interest may stem from the idea of the yearbook as a "high school" phenomenon. First-year Jessica Cox, who has already participated in several campus activities including the Volunteer Service Organization, Community Friends, and theater productions, shed some light on this idea. She worked on her yearbook in high school, but said, "I'm just too busy, and I do see it as a high school thing. It was a class in high school, you got a credit for it, and it was quite a big deal."

Though the "high school" stigma explains the relatively low interest in the yearbook in general, it still may not account for this year's slump in enthusiasm. The Center for Campus Activities and Leadership was not available for comment on this issue.

Winner now hopes to find a business staffer to succeed Black, more photographers, and, most importantly, students interested in helping to produce the nine sections of the annual, especially the senior and events pages. Though many students prefer to commit time during Winter Term , she hopes some students will want to stay on in the spring in order to establish some consistency in the layout.

In addition to their current efforts to generate interest, Wakim hopes to recruit some new Febs at the beginning of spring term so the staff can actualize new formatting ideas. "We had high expectations after last year," she said. "We had ideas of incorporating stylistic ideas from old books and also some new ideas. It's really hard if we don't at least have the [resources] to work with."

The *Kaleidoscope* also relies on the cooperation of the student body at large, student organizations, faculty and staff to help make this year's annual a success, soliciting photo contributions from all. Winner notes that working without the help of the entire community can prove very frustrating.

"When we send out e-mails and mail [about photos], we need students, faculty, and staff to get back to us as soon as possible. [When they don't] it makes deadlines stressful for us. Only one third of the organizations have submitted pictures," she explained.

If no students step up to the plate this year, the Class of 2005 may not have a volume of the *Kaleidoscope* without Winner or Wakim on campus. According to Wakim, yearbooks serve a larger purpose than preserving senior memories, making this prospect seem unfortunate.

"Yearbooks are placed in all the offices, admissions, the library. It's important to have a good book to draw people in," she claimed.

Winner feels the process of creating a yearbook can be just as rewarding for the staff as the final product is for the class. She described her personal experience: "I've been a part of the yearbook since eighth grade. It just came naturally. I worked with the exact same company and representative at Middlebury Union High School my senior year. It's fun. It's a great way to recap the year and its events and keep tabs on everything."

'Woman in the Red Dress' Up Front On War in Iraq

Famed Political Reporter Helen Thomas Addresses Audience in South Burlington

By Megan Michelson
Staff Writer

[Helen Thomas] has a passion for news, a passion for history and the belief that the independent press is the lifeblood of our democracy.

— Suzanne Gillis, publisher of *Vermont Woman*

Helen Thomas was not wearing her signature red dress, which she wore for so many years as the White House Bureau Chief for United Press International, when she spoke at the Sheraton Conference Center in South Burlington last Sunday. Dressed instead in dark blue, Thomas addressed hundreds of Vermonters on the topics of Bush's presidency, the war with Iraq and the value of an independent media.

Thomas is known for more than her red dress. In her career as a journalist, she has covered the White House through nine presidencies over the last 40 years. At age 83, she is still a working journalist, writing a syndicated column for Hearst Newspapers.

Thomas has been called the "Grande Dame of Political Journalism," and her personality has been described as "feisty," "precise," "relentless" and "enduring." She has interrogated every president from J.F.K. to Bill Clinton. She is best known for asking the opening question from the front row at White House press conferences and closing with the statement, "Thank you, Mr. President."

It was only recently that the Bush administration demoted her to the back of the press room during news conferences, disabling her from posing her famously challenging inquiries. "I was sent to the back because I asked obnoxious questions," Thomas said with a laugh.

Her speech on Sunday marked the inaugural lecture in a series presented by the Vermont Woman Speakers Bureau and *Vermont Woman*, a new monthly newspaper. Suzanne Gillis, publisher of *Vermont Woman*, introduced Thomas, saying, "She has a passion for the news, a passion for history and the belief that the independent press is the lifeblood of our democracy."

Thomas began her lecture by sharing her opinions on the war in Iraq. "War is killing and being killed. This is a war without purpose. It has been called a war of choice, but who would choose this? We did — and without any imminent danger." She cited the loss of human lives and the spending of billions of dollars as results of a war which she described as "an incredible folly."

Thomas blamed the silenced communication between the press and the presidency as a major factor in the downfall of the state of the Union. She said that few presidents since George Washington, who she jokingly acknowledged came before her time, have actually liked engaging with the press. But, according to Thomas, George W. Bush has been the least receptive to the national media. "President Bush is the most conservative president I've ever covered. He has only held 10 news conferences in his nearly three years in office," she said.

She twice repeated the phrase, "Democracy dies behind closed doors," further stating, "The fears of being called unpatriotic and un-American have caused the press to roll over and play dead." Quoting Abraham Lincoln, she said, "Let the people know the facts, and the people will be safe."

Thomas herself, however, is hardly playing dead. Her charismatic personality radiated from the stage as she recalled gripping and often humorous stories from her experience working with nine different presidents. "I try to remember each president as a human being with highs and lows. Ultimately, I believe the president is the nation's chief public servant." She related personal memories ranging from dinners with Lyndon B. Johnson to traveling to China with Richard Nixon, as well as meeting Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow with Ronald Reagan.

In her closing comments, she again posed the question of why the United States initiated a preemptive attack on Iraq. "The American people can handle the truth — they deserve at least that," she said.

Thomas, who is used to asking the questions, spent the final portion of her appearance fielding questions from the audience. Middlebury College student Emily Halnon '06.5 asked Thomas what advice she had for the next generation. "I am outraged at the injustice," Thomas replied. "I think future generations need to get mad and get even."

Overall, Thomas' appearance was received with enthusiasm. Margaret Michniewicz, managing editor of *Vermont Woman*, was pleased with the audience turnout and participation. "We live in a state where people are naturally going to come in with jaws dropped because they can't believe what's going on in our government. This isn't the case in all states. So, I'm not surprised at the support and enthusiasm that these Vermonters are showing for Helen Thomas today," said Michniewicz.

Halnon, a political science major, has heard Thomas speak in Washington as well. She further praised Thomas, saying, "I think she is an incredible speaker. She's so humorous and so inspirational. She has the right to say everything she does. She should be standing up for her beliefs," said Halnon.

When an audience member stood up to thank Thomas for coming to Vermont, Thomas responded, "Gosh, I really love being here. Now do I have to go back to where I'm hated?"

Courtesy

In a talk sponsored by Vermont Woman, noted journalist Helen Thomas discussed her experiences covering the White House.

Death with Dignity: Legislating a Matter of Life and Death in Vt.

By Kate Doorley
Staff Writer

A further obstacle to the passage of the Death with Dignity Act is Gov. James Douglas' declared opposition to the bill.

What would you do if you or someone you loved had a terminal disease that caused great pain? Would you want them to be able to end their suffering?

Legislators in Vermont are answering yes to this question. Through new legislation, the state wants to grant Vermont residents the ability to choose to end their lives in the case of terminal illness through the controversial process of physician-assisted suicide.

Vermont is not the first state to consider legalizing euthanasia. The state of Oregon pioneered the so-called "Death with Dignity" legislation in 1992, when doctor-assisted suicide was legalized under certain circumstances, including extensive documentation of the terminal nature of the patient's illness. The Netherlands and Belgium also have assisted suicide laws, which allow patients to request drugs to end their lives if they believe the circumstances of their health warrant such an action.

There are currently bills in committee in both the state House and Senate to add Vermont to the list of states with "Death with Dignity" acts. The House bill, H.318, is sponsored by a number of legislators, including Middlebury's Betty Nuovo. The stated purpose of the bill is to "allow terminally ill Vermonters, who have fewer than six months to live, to choose to end their lives by taking medication to end their suffering."

The bill places a number of conditions upon presiding physicians and patients, including the requirement of two witnesses to the patient's mental ability to make the request. Neither witness can be related to the patient, be in a position to inherit money or property from the patient or be an employee of a medical facility where the patient is either in residence or receiving treatment. The patient is also required to make two oral requests and a written request for medication as well as have the opportunity to refuse the drugs after having made the three requests, in order to ensure that the request is not a spur of the moment decision.

The Senate bill, of which Senator Claire Ayer of Addison County is a sponsor, is written with similar intentions. Like the House bill, the Senate bill aims to "affirm and protect the rights of mentally competent individuals to control end-of-life medical decisions when they are suffering from terminal illness, and when they have no reasonable medical expectation of living longer than six months."

Senator Ayer stated, "I tend to favor the idea from two perspectives [including that of] a nurse who has seen a number of people who should have had more support/comfort in their final days. Services were spottily available on a home care basis and they were forced to go to the hospital where their choices were even more limited."

She added, "The Oregon legislation requires that lethal drugs be self-administered. To me, that means a conscious choice and deliberate action on the part of the patient. I find that a better choice than family and hospice, for example, making the choice, and I see little difference in terms of physician's prescription practices."

However, these two bills supporting "Death with Dignity" are not the only bills in the Legislature relating to euthanasia. The House is also considering a bill, H.275, which would make it a crime to commit or assist another person to commit suicide, and proposes the revocation of the licenses of any physician or other medical personnel who chose to disobey the law.

The various bills relating to assisted suicide have provoked a great deal of discussion in the state. The Vermont Medical Society (VMS) has held a series of meetings to decide what its position on the issue should be, and for the moment has decided to remain neutral.

According to the VMS, such neutrality will allow each member doctor to decide according to his or her conscience whether or not to participate in euthanasia, in the case that it should be legalized. This is a position similar to that taken by the Oregon Medical Society, in response to the 1992 passing of Oregon's Death With Dignity legislation.

Various groups have taken polls in Vermont on the issue of assisted suicide, achieving significantly different results. The End of Life Choices Society (formerly titled the Hemlock Society) polled Vermont physicians and found that 75 percent supported legalizing assisted suicide. On the other hand, the Vermont Alliance of Ethical Healthcare, a group of Vermont physicians who have gathered together with the purpose of "promoting the provision of excellent health care at the end of life in an ethical manner and to oppose efforts to legalize physician-assisted suicide of euthanasia in Vermont," conducted a poll which shows a 70 percent opposition rate to euthanasia.

Senator Ayer noted one of the difficulties embedded in the bill, mentioning the fact that "we need to be sure that patients asking for prescriptions are screened and treated for depression. Depression is an understandable reaction to impending death or great suffering, but it's important that such choices are made with as clear a mind as possible."

The Vermont Alliance argues that there have been numerous abuses of the right-to-die legislation, and also that hospices could help cease the suffering of terminally ill patients without killing them. However, supporters of the bill counter these arguments by pointing out that since the Oregon bill has been passed, barely 100 people have chosen to end their lives. Furthermore, the use of hospices has actually increased, not decreased, as Vermont opponents of the bill claim. Senator Ayer noted this fact, saying, "I'm impressed with the results of the law in Oregon. Only a few patients have asked for the option, and a small percentage of them used it. The best part is that end-of-life care has improved in quality, quantity and availability."

A further obstacle to the passage of the "Death with Dignity" Act is Gov. James Douglas' declared opposition to the bill. If the House and Senate pass their versions of the bill, they will have to also obtain the necessary majorities to override a potential veto from the Governor. However, both bills have yet to emerge from their respective committee sessions, so it may yet be a while before the Legislature in its entirety has the chance to debate the issue.

Rural Realities
By Crystal Belle

When arriving at Middlebury College almost four years ago, the innate beauty of the college campus amazed me. I loved everything from the McCullough spruce tree to the miniature-sized town. However, there was something that was very apparent to me — how vast and spacious the actual campus was, in spite of the label "*small* liberal arts college." I always wondered how I would ever find a way to get to class on time.

There was no way I would ever skateboard or rollerblade to class, as I had seen quite a few students do. Then there was the very popular bicycle. That was even funnier than the thought of rollerblades. A New Yorker like myself, from Brooklyn at that, riding a bicycle in the midst of nature-driven Vermont. *THAT WILL NEVER BE ME*, I thought aloud to myself.

So, like most of the other urbanites here in rural Vermont, I trudged to class with my two best friends — my feet! As the bicyclists raced by me, during my daily promenade to Proctor or Munroe, I would secretly wish that I could get from point A to point B as fast as they could. However, I kept my sentiments bottled up, afraid to admit to my desire to conform to the Vermont way of life.

Freshman, sophomore and junior years rolled by, and I remained bike-less, still crawling to class as the bikers zoomed by. Finally senior year arrived, and I had more urges to ride a bike. Why buy one now when I'm a senior? It's almost winter, too late to ride a bike. These thoughts continuously floated through my head, yet my heart told me to simply purchase the damn thing! Hey, if purchased, it would be the closet thing to having a car here.

It finally happened on Saturday, Nov. 1. I told myself that I had to buy a bike and see what the experience was truly like. After having listened to the bike salesman explain the pros and cons of owning a Raleigh M20 for about an hour, I was ready to roll — literally.

As I walked the bike out of the store, I felt like a new person and somewhat of a traitor to my subway-dwelling days in Brooklyn. Yet still, I was ready for the challenge and most importantly, I was ready to get to class in two minutes as opposed to the dreadful 10.

My very first ride was wonderful, reminding me of my childhood days on my purple 10-speed mountain bike, riding through the Prospect Park section of North Flatbush. It felt right and even better when I would leave three minutes before class started and still manage to be on time.

I couldn't believe I waited so long to make the switch from walking to riding on this huge campus! Although many of the ruralites as well as urbanites make fun of my new "gadget," I am proud of my cute, blue Raleigh mountain bike.

Yes, it might reflect a sign of my conformity to Middlebury's wilderness.

However, while riding, I still wear my funky shoes, and Parisian-style jackets, while breezing past the collegiate pedestrians.

Forum Tackles Poverty in Addison County

By Alyssa Thurston
Local news Editor

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrating the having — and eating — of plenty. To Middlebury College's Volunteer Services Organization (VSO), it's also the perfect time to spread awareness of the issues of hunger and poverty on a local level.

They did so last Monday at 7 p.m. in the Robert A. Jones '59 Conference Room at a forum entitled "Poverty and Hunger in Addison County." The forum, sponsored by VSO and the College's Brainerd Commons, kicked off VSO's Hunger Awareness Week at the College from Nov. 17-24.

The purpose of the forum, as advertised on posters around campus, was to "address the multiple aspects of poverty, how they are integrated, and will explore ways in which one can address community needs in a responsible and helpful manner."

The forum hosted four panelists who, while they represented a variety of social service organizations in Addison County, all directly deal with the issues of poverty and hunger on a daily basis.

Terry McKnight represented the Addison County Community Trust, an organization that works to help obtain affordable housing for people whose salaries don't provide them with livable wages.

Panelist Jeanne Montross represented two organizations. The Addison County Community Action Group's (ACCAG) general mission is to end poverty in Addison County The John W. Graham Shelter in Vergennes provides emergency services, including shelter, food and medical assistance to people in need.

Paula Sargent was from Hea Start, a program that targets low-income families to provide child services, with an emphasis on education. The final panelist was Ruth Hardy from the Open Door Clinic, which provides semi-weekly free medical services to people without medical insurance.

Peter Viola
The Volunteer Services Organization convened a forum to address poverty and hunger in Addison County.

> It seems like [poverty] is growing [in Addison County]. We don't know where it will end. It's a problem that is tough and that is only getting tougher.
>
> — Jeanne Montross, Addison County Community Action Group

A main theme running through the panelists' presentation was the unrecognized seriousness of the probems of homelessness and hunger in Addison County. In commenting on these issues, McKnight remarked that "people think of Addison County as a beautiful, rural place where housing is cheap and easy to find — that's simply not true." There is, instead, "tremendous demand" for housing in the area "that is not being met and is growing every year."

Montross concurred with McKnight's assessment of the seriousness of poverty in the local community, saying, "It seems like [poverty] is growing [in Addison County]. We don't know where it will end. It's a problem that is tough and that is only getting tougher." She said that there is often a "huge gap" between people's salaries and the costs of living in Addison County that desperately needs to be closed.

Panelists also continually cited their appreciation for the numbers of local residents and college students who volunteer their time and efforts with various service organizations. "Any kind of volunteering is extremely helpful and valuable," commented Hardy. But she also cautioned volunteers to "come with an open mind — you can't have all the answers [to these problems]. We certainly don't."

After the four panelists spoke, moderator Heather Cronk, of the College's Alliance for Civic Engagement office, opened up the discussion to audience questions.

Attendees posed a variety of questions and comments. Laurel Houghton '04 asked about ways to prevent the root causes of poverty and hunger, instead of just "patching up" these problems with the services provided by these organizations. Another student asked how Middlebury College, as a source of major wealth in the area and the largest landowner in Addison County, might be able to help the community with the problem of local poverty.

Perhaps the defining statement of the evening was the most basic one, made in response to a question about the importance of supporting the projects of these organizations. Montross stated simply that involvement "makes the world a better place if everyone has a better chance. So often, people end up serving themselves. We need to look at what is right and moral and make those things happen" through willingly helping people in need.

In the words of Sargent, "our [basic] goal is to help families build a bridge out of poverty." The incredible passion and conviction in their work that the panelists showed, as well as their dedication to spreading awareness of the issues of poverty and hunger on the local level, prove that such bridges have a solid foundation in Addison County.

Home Turf

Schuyler VanHorn
Giving Lovers of the Garden State a run for its money, *Connie Winner '06.5 is spearheading a club that celebrates the Green Mountain State. Should Mike Kirkland '03.5, New Jersey's biggest fan, worry about being overshadowed? Only time will tell.*

Trailing History: Ripton Students Use Technology to Map Local Paths

By Kelsey Rinehart
Staff Writer

Through discussions, hikes and hands-on activities at the North Branch School in Ripton, Vt., seventh, eighth and ninth graders are blazing new trails.

Using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) units to chart the trails and roads and the computer program Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to create the maps, students have taken the first steps on a journey into their community's past.

The students and their teachers are working on a project for the Community Mapping Program, supported by the Vermont Institute for Natural Science (VINS) in Woodstock and the Ripton Conservation Commission.

By rediscovering old roadways and presenting their map to the Ripton community, the trailblazers hope not only to teach their town about its geographic past but also to create new avenues for recreation.

Eric Warren, a science teacher at the North Branch School, said that the original idea came from Barry King and her husband Warren King, who are on the Ripton Conservation Commission.

Warren, who is on the Planning Commission as well, noted the Commission's lack of current, accurate maps of Ripton's trails, and so began the project. Warren, from the North Branch School, noted that the project is still in its nascent stage. "We have not done much with the data yet. Our efforts have been on getting out on the trail," he explained.

The class has hiked about 12 different trails, including the Pearl Lee Road Extension ("which has been completely obscured through time," Warren said), the Skylight Pond Trail and the Burnt Hill Trail, among others. Students have kept data sheets and will use these to plot their data by hand and using GIS. They are now compiling a trail guidebook to Ripton.

As far as hiking goes, however, "We are on hold right now, during rifle season, and we are working on other subjects until we can get back to this project," Warren said. He assured, however, that even during the dead of winter the project would go on with the aid of snowshoes.

Inside, during science class, "all students have learned various mapping techniques, have worked with GPS units, have learned various coordinate systems and have begun maps and plans of our new school property," Warren said. This winter, students will start on GIS software, he continued.

So far, the students have been enthusiastic about the project. "They love the hiking. They consistently insist that we go out on the trail whatever the weather," Warren said. "The GPS units have been a hit — we have some students who have become particularly enthused about 'Geocatching,' a Web-based game using GPS units to find hidden caches on trails all over the world," he explained.

The Community Mapping Program, started in the spring of 1999, offers training and support in using GPS and GIS to students, teachers and local organizations, aiding geographic exploration in communities all over New England. GPS and GIS facilitate investigation into the terrain through the lens of time, place and sustainable systems.

In any given community, the Program typically joins up with members of the local historical society or conservation commission. Together, they guide students and teachers as they pinpoint local concerns, do fieldwork and draw up maps, aiding preservation and creating new opportunities for recreation and land use.

The Community Mapping Program, which has helped develop over 50 projects in Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Colorado, is a product of the Orton Family Foundation and the VINS.

The Orton Foundation, based in Rutland, is a nonprofit group whose mission is "helping citizens of rural America define the future, shape the growth and preserve the heritage of their communities." The Foundation explains on its Web site that the maps created through the Community Mapping Program "might include a community's swimming holes, sunset vistas, dairy farms and other special places where local people work and play."

The nonprofit organization VINS, founded in 1972, states on its Web site that it aims at "protecting Vermont's natural heritage through education and research." The VINS is a leading researcher and protector of "migratory songbirds, common loons, peregrine falcons and other threatened or endangered species" and has one of largest collections of live raptors — hawks, eagles, falcons and owls — in North America.

The Community Mapping Project is part of the VINS's collaboration with educators at six Vermont schools and several high schools in the Yampa Valley region of Colorado. Students and their teachers from both states will complete the project simultaneously, using the Web site www.communitymap.org to share their findings.

Students are greatly aided by the Ripton Conservation Commission's involvement in the project through the Commission's expertise in field biology and field interpretation. The Commission teaches students how to conduct real research and use their findings to draw up maps.

The maps created through the cooperation of students and the Commission will allow the Ripton Planning Commission to conduct a Town Plan revision.

"By the end of the year," Warren stated, "our goal is to cover all of the major trails in the town of Ripton — it is ambitious, but we seem to be getting through it."

Warren said that while the project has certainly been valuable, "as it is the first time I have taught it, there has been a big learning curve as far as making our time productive." He thinks the students have gained a lot from the project. "They like the idea that they are doing something which will actually be used to help the local community."

Ripton students have hiked the following trails:

Pearl Lee Road Extension (the original road between Ripton & Lincoln)

Norton Farm Road/ Forest Service Road 235

Frost Mountain Trail (from both the east & west)

Robert Frost Cabin trails

Wagon Wheel Extension

The Catamount trail (sections near Breadloaf)

Trails off Chandler Hill Road

Trails off of Natural Turnpike

Skylight Pond Trail

Forest Service Road 92

Burnt Hill Trail

Norske Trail

For more information on the Community Mapping Program and students' mapping activities, as well as to view a gallery of other mapping projects in the country, visit the Program's Web site at http://www.communitymap.org

Courtesy

Students from the North Branch School in Ripton, Vt., work on mapping local trails in a project that fuses nature and technology.

Beyond the Bubble

Compiled by Andrea M. LaRocca and Alyssa Thurston

EDITOR'S PICK: THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AND YOUR FAMILY IS SICK OF GETTING MIDDLEBURY SWEATSHIRTS BY NOW. WHAT TO DO? CHECK OUT THE VERMONT CRAFT FAIR, WHERE YOU'RE SURE TO FIND SOME GOOD OL' VERMONTY PRESENTS THAT MOM WOULD LOVE.

THE ANNUAL VERMONT HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW: This craft fair is Vermont's biggest and best — and longest, since it's been around since the early 1950s! See the works of Vermont handcrafters and artists, and sample Vermont specialty foods. More than 180 Vermont craftsmen will be there between Nov. 20-23 at the Sheraton Conference Center in South Burlington. Call 802-373-5429 for more details.

HIGH DRUG PRICES AND THE CANADIAN SOLUTION?: Ah, yes, those Canadians. On Friday, Nov. 21, Frank Buonincontro, founder of the Marble Works Pharmacy and Vermont Mail Order Pharmacy, will discuss how Canada may help the American pharmaceutical industry. Check it out at Ilsley Library at 10 a.m.

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY COURSE: Put your parents at ease this winter. On Sat. Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., certified instructors will teach a snowmobile safety course. Sign up soon, though, because the maximum class size is 20. To register call the Lincoln Library at 802-453-2665 or Holly Acker at 802-453-4678.

GAIA DRUM-AND-DANCE: Work off your end-of-the-year stress — the fun way! Dance it up at the Gaia Drum-and-Dance on Sat. Nov. 22 at the Bridge School (corner of Exchange St. and Rt. 7 in Middlebury). $5 per person at the door. Call 802-545-2223 for information, or just show up at 7 p.m. with your dancing shoes on!

TURKEY TROT AND GOBBLE WOBBLE ROAD RACE: Earn your turkey dinner this year! Run a 5K or 10K on Sun. Nov. 23 at noon for an entry fee of $20. For details and registration forms, call Carolyn at 802-388-4041 or Bruce at 802-388-8103.

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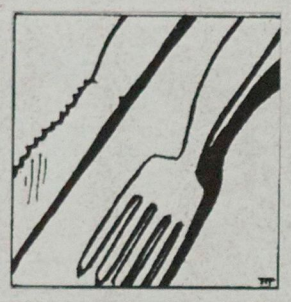

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

by Andrea M. LaRocca

Courtesy

- Restaurant: Starry Night Café
- Location: 5371 Route 7, Ferrisburgh
- Hours: Wed. - Sun., seating 5:30-9 p.m.
- Features: Local, organic, seasonal menu

If Van Gogh had been a chef instead of a painter, Starry Night Café would arguably have been his masterpiece. This local, gourmet restaurant is in Ferrisburgh on Route 7, and you could easily drive past it on your way to Burlington — but don't. Save yourself half the trip (the café is only 20 minutes from campus), and you'll still get the quality atmosphere, food and service that you were driving to Burlington for.

From outside, Starry Night Café looks like a small, typical Vermont restaurant. Inside, however, it will outshine your expectations. The restaurant is decorated with a modern, Fifth Avenue touch — the copper-topped wooden tables are accented with sleek black chairs, artistically contemporary lights hang from the ceiling and the bar is a woodcarving masterpiece. The interior is simply beautiful, a true dining oasis. Even the shape of the dining room — an octagon — is innovative. Beware, however, for sound echoes in this sparsely decorated restaurant. Sometimes you might feel like you're not only eating in a New York City restaurant but are also trying to talk over the hum of New York City.

Like the atmosphere, the menu is modern and gourmet — not to mention local and organic. Several dishes feature in-season products of the local farmers, but almost every dish has a local and/or organic twist, such as housemade cheddar crackers or local roasted beets. In short, it's environmentally conscious gourmet food for both the Vermonter and the visitor.

The menu includes an original selection of appetizers, such as the roasted buttercup squash and apple soup with cinnamon crème fraiche ($5.50) and the grilled sea scallops with sweet potato gnocchi and cranberry chutney ($8). Normal appetizer favorites, such as calamari, are also deliciously redefined at Starry Night. Appetizers range from $5.50-$8.

Save room, though, because the true Starry Night dinner is four courses — appetizer, salad, entrée and dessert. The salad selection is the restaurant's best showcase of the local and seasonal products, with simple salads such as mixed greens with white balsamic and lemon vinaigrette ($4.50) or more adventurous salads such as grilled sweet potatoes, roasted pear, pomegranates and mixed greens with ginger balsamic vinaigrette ($6.50). For between $4.50 and $7.50, the salads are small, but they are the best opportunity to experiment with your gourmet taste buds — the strange Starry Night combinations are surprisingly delicious.

Likewise, you may be daunted by the entrée selections because of words like hominy grits, parsnip lorette potatoes or fiery rouille. But if you don't know what it is, don't worry — at Starry Night, the gourmet flavor puts taste before style. The grilled black angus N.Y. strip steak with spicy chipotle butter, parsnip lorette potatoes and baby carrots ($21) is excellent, as is the grilled mahi mahi with roasted spaghetti squash, spinach, smoked tomato buerre blanc and braised fennel tapenade ($20). (And that's coming from a girl who doesn't like fish.) Other entrees include pork, seafood, lamb and pasta (vegetarian) and have equally tasteful twists, all for between $14 and $22 per plate.

The dessert menu is especially seasonal. It features an assortment from tarts to crème brulee to ice cream. Likewise, the large selection of wines, the cocktail specials (try the Perfect Champagne Cocktail) and the full bar add to the gourmet experience. For the whole meal, the expensive prices are worth the food that you get. And you won't leave hungry — Starry Night thankfully does not conform to the stereotypical meagerness of gourmet food.

Parents and girlfriends will especially love Starry Night Café, but be sure to make reservations for the weekends and busy times, such as Fall Family Weekend and graduation. During the week, Starry Night usually isn't too busy, though, so that's a great time to visit if you're looking for a relaxing dinner. Also, on one Thursday every month, the bluegrass band "The Meatpackers" will serenade your dinner. Any time is worth the trip and the money, though. And I think Van Gogh would agree.

Area Development on the Rise

By Greg Duggan
Staff Writer

When you start allowing one larger so-called chain [store] into the area it opens the door for others, in the long-term thinking, that may impact the nature of the town.

— JoAnne Gruber, Middlebury resident

In the past year, Middlebury has seen its share of larger, big-name enterprises become part of the community. Dunkin' Donuts and the Marriott have both recently moved to town, and a Hannaford Supermarket plans to open in the plaza vacated by Ames by mid-spring.

In addition to Hannaford, several other large development plans may take place in the near future. The Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op has received permission to build an extension, and construction on a large heating storage warehouse in the industrial park on Exchange Street will soon begin. Finally, plans for a 20,000 square foot office building have been proposed to the Planning Commission. While development has faced some opposition, the town has largely supported the presence of new businesses. Even so, many also recognize the importance of preserving the town's undeveloped lands.

From time to time, citizens have voiced opposition to development. Several years ago, Middlebury considered allowing a Price Chopper to open in town. In response, a faction of town residents fought to keep the chain out of the town. There was concern that a Price Chopper would not only detract business from the local food stores, but also pave the way for the opening of a Wal-Mart — a typical symbol of commercial uniformity.

JoAnne Gruber, a teacher who has lived in Middlebury for five years, expressed an understanding of such concerns. "I guess when you start allowing one larger so-called chain into the area it opens the door for others, and in long-term thinking, that may impact the nature of the town," she said.

At the same time, Gruber realizes the benefits of having well-known businesses in the area. "Probably what a place like the Marriott will do is increase the tourist industry around here, which in some ways is not a bad thing. If the local businesses are doing well because the tourists are doing well, then the shopping improves," she explained.

Public sentiment has been generally supportive of local construction. "The responses tend to be specific to particular projects. People tend to be concerned about changes in what they see from their properties, or traffic impact, or other disturbances. There is not a group in town that, as a matter of position, opposes everything. There is not that kind of anti-development sentiment just circulating around," Town Planner Fred Dunnington explained.

Dunnington and the Planning Commission have much to do with the lack of anti-development sentiment, working to ensure that development in Middlebury fits with the town's character. "What we look at in each development review piece is whether there will be an undo adverse effect on the town or on the neighborhood in which it's located," Dunnington said. When the Marriott was built, for example, plans had to be revised so that the hotel's architecture would correspond with that of other buildings on Court Street.

Since the closing of Ames last year, there is hope that much of the larger, more visible development in Middlebury will have a positive effect on the town's economy. After Ames went out of business, many businesses in Middlebury suffered.

Ames was an "anchor draw," according to Jamie Stewart, executive director of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation. "People who would come into town to shop at Ames to pick up underwear, socks — staples, basic things you needed — would then come into the downtown and shop for other things as well. But without having the base for those staple items that Ames provided, there is that feeling that they've lost market," Stewart said.

Currently, many people travel to Rutland or Burlington to do their shopping. Marguerite Senecal, an information specialist for the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, said people were even traveling across Lake Champlain to shop at the Walmart in Ticonderoga, N. Y. With the opening of Hannaford, therefore, the local economy hopes to experience a revival by bringing some of these shoppers back to Middlebury.

Despite the importance of development to Middlebury, however, some citizens also recognize the importance of preserving some parts of the town by restricting it from development. For the past 15 years, the Middlebury Area Land Trust and the Otter Creek Audubon Society have worked together on the Greenbelt Project, an endeavor committed to protecting the land around Otter Creek in Middlebury and Weybridge.

Warren King, the president of the Otter Creek Audubon Society, described the purpose of the Greenbelt Project.

"The idea is to provide the residents of Middlebury and Addison County with a shoreline that is protected and undeveloped for recreational and aesthetic purposes. It is remarkably free of disturbance right now, and we feel it ought to remain that way." The project preserves most of the land when property owners donate tracts of land to the Land Trust.

Currently, Project Greenbelt is working to raise enough money to purchase 17 acres on the shore of Otter Creek from Middlebury College. At the moment, no major construction plans exist for any of the land on Otter Creek, and the Greenbelt Project believes that will remain true. "It's going to stay green, we hope, forever," King said.

While development may influence the character of Middlebury from time to time, it remains a charismatic, unique town. Gruber said, "One of the things I value about Middlebury is its smallness. I like the fact that because the population is as small as it is, it allows for a really strong community feel."

Two tourists visiting from Cape Cod, Lorraine Linn and Lisa Thimas, concurred. They were charmed by Middlebury and can't wait to come back. Said Thimas, "We hope there's not too much development. This is perfect."

Schuyler Van Horn

The new Courtyard by Marriott on Route 7 is expected to help support Middlebury's tourism industry.

Making Democracy Work

Since arriving at Middlebury College a little more than two years ago, I have taken more classes in the Japanese Department than any other. Indeed, Japan has always fascinated me, and I look forward to traveling there many times during the course of my life. The thing that impresses me about Japan, more than anything else, is its ability to fuse its own unique culture with everything that's great about Western Culture.

That is, even though Japanese language, writing, theatre, visual culture, cooking, religion, mannerisms and general behaviors differ greatly from those found in America and Europe, their political culture, legal code and economic structure is modeled after the successes found in the West. Indeed, the old saying, "Western things, Japanese spirit," has propelled Japan into one of the world's most successful nations in virtually every measure.

In this sense, Japan has proven to be one of the few nations in the world that has aptly discerned between "artistic culture" and "political and economic culture."

That is, the Japanese have embraced democracy, capitalism and the Western legal code while still enjoying their own artistic accomplishments as manifest in hundreds of forms from Noh theater to Sumo wrestling. For the most part, they have also maintained their traditional Buddhist and Shinto religions. Rarely, at any point in their modern history have they made the ridiculous argument that democracy, capitalism and equal rights cannot co-exist with a very foreign culture.

Unfortunately, even though the Japanese smartly recognized and embraced many elements of Western excellence almost 150 years ago, there are still many who live under the false conviction that democracy, capitalism and many other elements of Western ingenuity are somehow incompatible with some of today's struggling societies. Some on the left have gone so far as to suggest that concepts such as democracy and equal rights are not necessarily better, but are just "one way of doing it." These misguided people would have one believe that *Shariah*, the strict Islamic law that would have led to the stoning of Aminal Lawal, an innocent Nigerian mother, is an equally valid interpretation of how laws should be carried out. The fact, though, is that strict Islamic law is not just "a different way" of doing things, it is a definitively worse way of doing things.

Similarly, Taliban law, which forced women into *burqua*, was objectively horrible, and it is good that America toppled the tyrannical regime. Many disagree with this because of the universally accepted fallacy that human rights abuses are justified when shrouded as "cultural differences." They are not.

Human rights abuses, the denial of inalienable rights, the disenfranchisement of women and every other form of injustice that is found in dozens of nations should never be

See Bryan Goldberg's Good Government for a Diverse World, page 13

Environmentalists Only in Word

An April 2002 poll by the League of Conservation Voters found that 47 percent of Americans consider the environment to be a "very important" consideration when at the voting booth.

This statistic should excite any American intent on opposing President Bush's controversial environmental record in 2004 if it were not for the fickle quality by which Americans reflect the environment in their votes.

The majority of Americans call themselves environmentalists, but when elections come around, environmental issues take a back seat to more pressing needs regarding the economy, jobs and national security.

The disconnection between verbal determination and the ballot is one of the most basic forms of environmental apathy present in a democratic nation. But other manifestations of apathy exist within daily life, even on the relatively green Middlebury College campus.

For instance, many students drive their vehicles between classes, excused by the challenges of a large campus and extreme climate. Paper is consumed in libraries at impressive quantities. Students feel comfortable taking dishware from the dining halls and not returning it, an act that has already cost Dining Services $6,600 this academic year and encourages use of disposables. Even amongst the nation's foremost undergraduate Environmental Studies Program a divide exists between personal philosophy and daily action.

Consider the case of the Yellow Bikes. The Yellow Bike program addresses campus transportation by providing a fleet of marked bicycles available for student use with membership. The success of the initiative has been particularly apparent this fall, with a diverse array of people making use of a highly visible fleet.

Yellow Bikes provide students who cannot afford bicycles an efficient mode of transport, discourage car use and symbolically accentuate Middlebury's environmental Peak of Excellence.

Yet it would be unfair to ignore the inherent abuse that accompanies the bicycles' use. Bikes are left thrown on the ground, chains fall off without the rider stopping to reassemble them, tires jam from use on inappropriate terrain. It is rational to recognize that appropriate use of this resource would improve program efficiency and lessen its financial burden, yet a disconnection perseveres between the treatment of a common resource versus one's personal property.

It is important for Middlebury students to realize that they can make an environmental impact through small daily actions such as returning Proctor cups or printing only essential academic material. A simple first step could include a visit to the annual Environmental Fair during Thursday's Thanksgiving dinner at Ross where a variety of on-campus and local organizations will be available to inform and involve interested students.

Environmentalism succeeds via the accumulation of small successes, actions Middlebury students are more than capable of addressing, even if it means spending an extra 30 seconds to find a bike rack.

Ian Ausprey '04
An environmental studies major from Whiting, Maine

also
the middlebury campus magazine

on newsstands now

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EDITORIAL

President McCardell: Legacy in the Making

President John McCardell Jr. resigned his post before a capacity crowd in Mead Chapel Tuesday afternoon. He spelled out his future plans and his hopes for the College with the humility and eloquence that have come to define his 13-year tenure.

His departure in June 2004 will signal the end of an era of Middlebury College history. It's an era that has been marked by aggressive expansion of facilities, record-breaking fundraising and the introduction of a new model of residential life. McCardell's vision inspired many of these innovations, which will continue to shape collegiate life for years after he vacates his Old Chapel office. So in some sense, the McCardell era is just beginning. His successor will inevitably advance the vision that took root during the current administration.

McCardell's remarks, while at times forward looking, also reflected a historian's consciousness. "The historians will ultimately judge the greatness of the times through which we have passed together," he said. "In that judgment I am content, indeed serene."

As he should be. His leadership is firmly imprinted on the pages of recent Middlebury history — as well as that history yet to be written. And fortunately, he'll return to campus in July 2005 as College Professor to watch the College evolve — to a considerable extent in his own image.

BannerWeb: Flawed Beyond Inconvenience

BannerWeb made a shaky debut for Winter and Spring Term registration. The minor technical glitches should be forgiven, as should the slight inconvenience of rising at 7 a.m. to register in "real time."

But the problems run deeper. Beyond the learning curve associated with any new system, BannerWeb displays conceptual flaws in its very design. The first-come, first-serve registration system asks an entire class of students to be online at 7 a.m., with the spoils going to those with fastest computer navigating skills. We admire those with good hand-to-mouse coordination, but that alone does not entitle them to the most coveted classes. Real time registration may be sound in theory, but hardly so in practice.

BannerWeb also lacks a mechanism for effectively prioritizing registration. Middlebury Automated Registration System (MARS) had a built-in hierarchy — senior majors had the highest priority, followed by senior non-majors, junior majors, junior non-majors, and down the line.

BannerWeb rightfully privileges seniors by allowing them to register a day before juniors, who, in turn, register the day before sophomores. But the chain breaks down with major/non-major restrictions. Professors designate their course either "majors only" or "all students." In other words, "restricted to specialists" or "free for all." Neither is acceptable. Closing courses to non-majors negates of the liberal arts tradition that underpins the Middlebury College curriculum. A free for all, on the other hand, is a recipe for chaos. Majors will be deprived of the measure of priority they deserve.

It's a Catch-22. The middle ground offered by MARS seems lost, even though Banner experts point out there are ways for professors to more strictly control registration for their classes. Professors, however, don't seem to be aware of the finer points of the system, nor should they be asked to divert attention from teaching and scholarship to fiddle with a registration system that should be administered centrally.

The Registrar's Office must take account of BannerWeb's flaws and take steps to remedy them before the next registration cycle. For inspiration, look to MARS.

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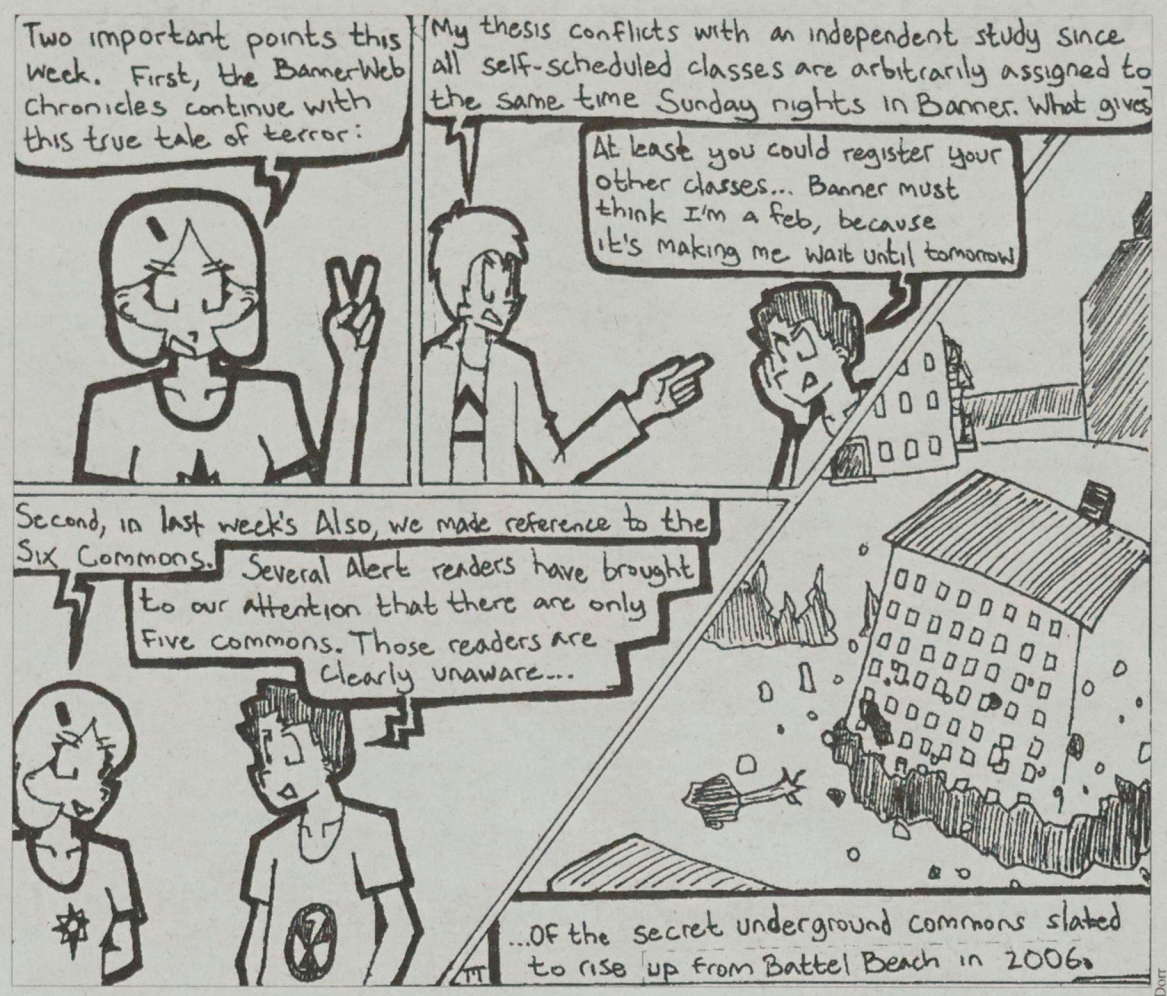

Two important points this week. First, the BannerWeb chronicles continue with this true tale of terror:
My thesis conflicts with an independent study since all self-scheduled classes are arbitrarily assigned to the same time Sunday nights in Banner. What gives?
At least you could register your other classes... Banner must think I'm a feb, because it's making me wait until tomorrow
Second, in last week's Also, we made reference to the Six Commons.
Several Alert readers have brought to our attention that there are only Five commons. Those readers are clearly unaware...
...Of the secret underground commons slated to rise up from Battel Beach in 2006.
Nat Dorr

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

There have been many new objections to the war effort in Iraq recently. It is important to keep in mind that we have essentially reached a point of no return in our involvement in the Middle East. To withdraw troops now would be to surrender. We helped put Saddam in power. We now need to officially remove him. We have not found Saddam or discovered the extent of Iraq's holdings of weapons of mass destruction. Even if we withdrew in hopes of negotiating peace, Saddam speaks a language of violence. In order to make our point that his regime is unacceptable, we must speak the language of Iraqis and continue to dominate through force. As long as Saddam is alive, the regime will be alive. We need to show the people of Iraq that their leader has been removed from power and that they are free from any ties to the old regime they may still believe in. It is in our best interest and that of Iraq to persist and move beyond Saddam's practical ownership of Iraq and establish a strong Muslim state.

Colleen Sullivan '07
Undeclared
Concord, Mass.

To the Editor:

If I understand the new rules correctly, beginning this J-term, students will no longer be able to sign up for a gym class on the first day. Instead, gym classes may only be registered through Banner Web. Why? "Because gym classes are a requirement." To this, I say: All other classes, which are requirements, have an add-drop period. Students are able to join, space permitting, any normal class on the first day.

It is hard to anticipate what gym classes one will be able to take when one's schedule is still in flux (and many students' schedules are until the beginning of the semester). The new system will encourage students to register for several gym classes, but attend only the ones that fit into their next semester's schedule, barring others from registering for classes. Students will not be allowed to join the class the first day, even if there is plenty of space.

Finally, a student who is uncertain about his or her level, being beginning, intermediate or advanced, will not be able to switch into a class that is more geared toward his or her level later. If gym classes are a requirement, they should be made more accessible to students, not the other way around. A BannerWeb-only policy for gym classes is unnecessary and inconvenient. We should continue to be able to sign up for gym classes on the first day.

Nate Marcus '05
Political Science major
Dover, Mass.

To the Editor:

Apparently I stand ideologically behind casual sex. This is news to me. However, it was reported in last week's issue ("The Rise of the New Right," Nov. 13) that conservatism was on the rise as "college freshmen nationwide have voiced a distinct drop in support for casual sex, legal abortion, wealthy people paying a large share of taxes and provision for gun laws." As a registered Democrat and an active member of the College Democrats, I'm outraged at the implication that support of casual sex is a part of liberal policy like the protection of abortion rights, gun control and progressive taxation. I have been following the Democratic Party for as long as I can remember and have yet to find a candidate with a platform of casual sex. In an issue of the paper supporting open-minded attitudes, I am surprised such a stereotype would slip into an article. It is no more valid to say someone is politically conservative because of moral disapproval for casual sex than claiming that students are politically liberal because of a "distinct drop in support" for homophobia or racism. Both are outrageous cultural stereotypes. I would hope a Middlebury publication would have the foresight to separate dismissive stereotypes from political facts.

Willa Brown '07
Undeclared

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's Web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

LaRouche Unfit for White House

A political extremist, anti-Semite, Sept. 11 conspiracy theorist and convicted felon came to Middlebury College last Friday. His name is Lyndon LaRouche, and he also happens to be a candidate for the Democratic Party's nomination for president.

As an alumnus, I was shocked and disturbed when I visited the college's Web site last week and learned that LaRouche was scheduled to give a speech at Middlebury. According to the announcement, featured prominently on the front page of the site, LaRouche was being presented at Middlebury by the College Democrats.

Most people do not know very much about LaRouche, if they know anything about him at all. That is probably a good thing.

LaRouche is currently engaged in his eighth campaign for the presidency, and perhaps his persistence alone makes him worthy of an invitation to speak at Middlebury.

But in December 1988 LaRouche was convicted of conspiracy and mail fraud in his campaign's solicitation of $34 million in loans, and he was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison. He managed his 1992 campaign from behind bars.

Last year, in a speech at the now-defunct Zayed Center in the United Arab Emirates, LaRouche claimed that "Jewish gangsters" and "Christian Zionists" control U.S. foreign policy and are responsible for the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

According to LaRouche, however, it is not just Jewish gangsters and Christian Zionists who are plotting to do terrible things to the American people. In his pamphlet entitled "Why Your Child Became a Drug Addict," LaRouche warns, "The Beatles had no genuine musical talent, but were a product shaped according to British Psychological Warfare Division specifications."

I do not question Mr. LaRouche's right to free speech. The college has to function as a free marketplace of ideas, and every student organization should have the ability to provide a forum for whomever it chooses. But with that freedom comes certain responsibilities, and I do question the wisdom in inviting LaRouche to Middlebury in the first place.

I doubt that LaRouche's speech was very persuasive. Given Middlebury's increasingly high admissions standards, I also doubt that any Middlebury students will be dumb enough to actually vote for him.

In the future, I hope Middlebury organizations use better judgment about who they choose to bring to campus. Everyone has a right to speak, but as Lyndon LaRouche demonstrates, not everyone is worth listening to.

Jonathan Shapira '02
from New York City, N.Y.

Good Government for a Diverse World

Continued from page 11

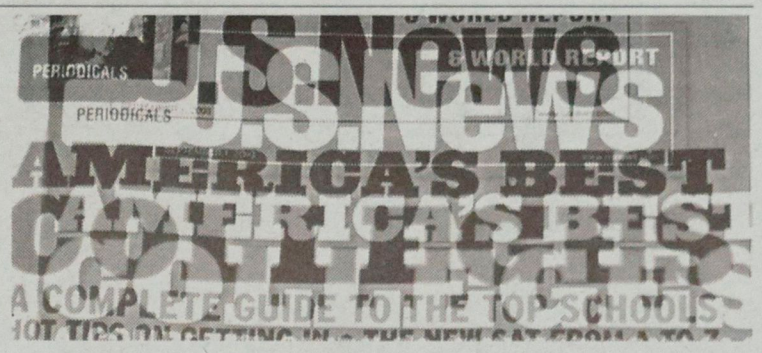
seen as "cultural differences."

Six months ago, the United States put an end to a tyrannical regime that was denying basic human rights to over 20 million people. The list of atrocities was so great that it would be unfair to those who suffered for me to attempt an enumeration. These were not a primitive people. Rather, they had accomplished many feats from an artistic standpoint, but their political culture was in shambles.

The American goal of spreading democracy, capitalism and equal rights doctrine to Iraq, both in hopes of augmenting the safety of America and the safety of the genocide-stricken Iraqis, will eventually succeed despite the sabotage efforts of a few thousand minority zealots. It is imperative, though, for Americans and Europeans alike to recognize the potential for Iraq, and for them to acknowledge that democracy and capitalism are objectively good and can be applied to every nation, even ones that celebrate a different culture.

As President Bush stated in his speech that was applauded the world over (except in Middlebury, Vt., it seems), the spreading of democracy and Western law is not "imperialism." Iraq's beautiful Islamic tradition can still co-exist with elected leaders.The United States is not trying to destroy foreign cultures, nor does President Bush have any desire to obliterate traditional Iraqi art, literature, language, calligraphy, cooking or religion. Rather, our nation and its leader want to show the people of Iraq that the accomplishments of the West, as manifest in political, economic and legal culture, are the best way of doing things.

Bryan Goldberg '05
An economics major from Los Altos, Calif.



A Challenge to Alums

Every autumn *U.S. News and World Report* releases its "America's Best Colleges" rankings, and Middlebury earned seventh place in this year's "Liberal Arts Colleges—Bachelor's" category. In President McCardell's words, "If such a list is to exist, I'd rather be on it than not." Proud Midd-kid that I am, I dare to strengthen this assertion — if there is going to be a list, then it would be best for us to claim the coveted number one.

Whether or not you are aware of this fact, there is something that alumni can do to improve our rank in coming years. Namely, you can improve the College's "Alumni Giving Rate," a quantitative, indirect measure of alumni satisfaction that *U.S. News* weights at five percent in determining the rank. Historically, Middlebury has lagged behind its peers in this category. Were you not "satisfied" with your Middlebury undergraduate experience? I am confident that this is not the case for the vast majority of our graduates. Nevertheless, only a pitiful 45 percent of Midd Alums contributed to the College's "Annual Fund" in the 2003 fiscal year.

The actual amount contributed each year by a donor is not considered in determining an institution's "Alumni Giving Rate" so there is truly no excuse for "satisfied" alumni who fail to donate. Give $1 annually, if this is all that you can afford. The point is that you should be giving something each year.

The Office of Annual Giving even has a "Direct Payment Plan" that can make regular charges on your credit card or regular deductions from your checking or savings account. Making an annual contribution to the College could not be any easier.

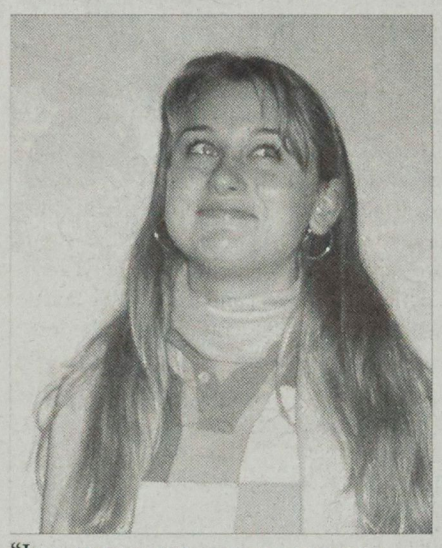
Alumni, you received an elite education from Middlebury College. It has become nothing less than your responsibility to assist the students following in your footsteps by making an annual contribution to your alma mater.

When it comes to the ranking of academic institutions, such as that which appears in *U.S. News and World Report*, we students are doing our part by continuously improving Middlebury's academic averages. We are increasing the value of your Middlebury College diploma with each and every incoming first-year class. Now, the time has come for you to improve your statistics. Please, sign-up for the Office of Annual Giving's "Direct Payment Plan."

Benjamin Morris '03.5
An economics, German, and philosophy major from
East Lyme, Conn.

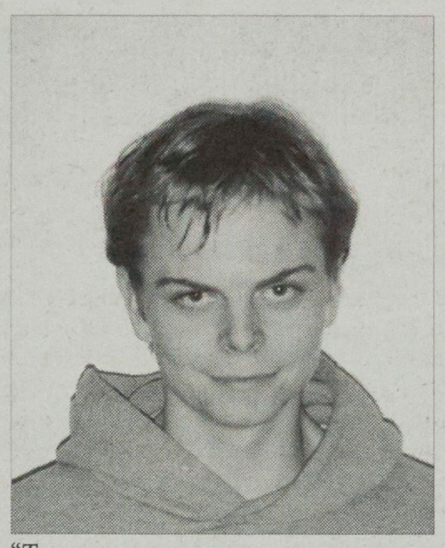
The Middlebury Campus Online Poll:

What was your experience with BannerWeb?



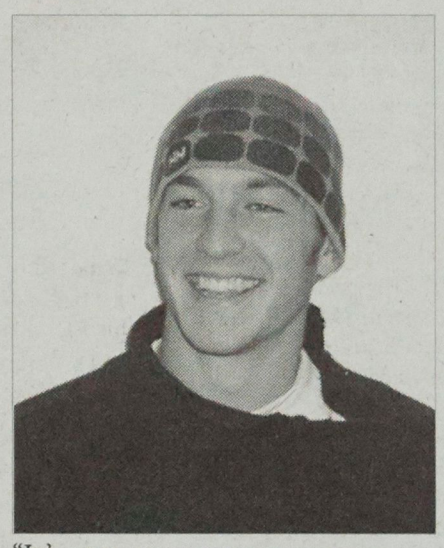
"It made me feel more prepared, but I wasn't sure if I was finished."

Britt Neuhaus '07
Weston, Fla.



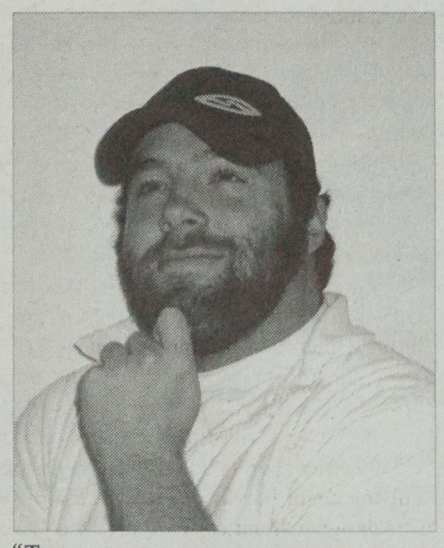
"They mixed up my academic record with my brother's."

Matt Motley '06
Brooklyn, N.Y.



"It's been an overall shaky transition."

Charlie Zabriskie '04.5
Aurora, N.Y.

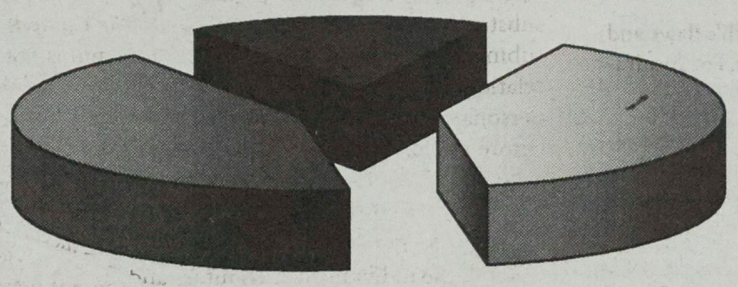


"There are so many restrictions. It makes the whole process so much more stressful."

Tim Tutsch '04
Toronto, Canada

Next Week's Question:
Is this the right time for President McCardell to step down?
Vote online at www.middleburycampus.com

Had problems, but I got into a class
17%



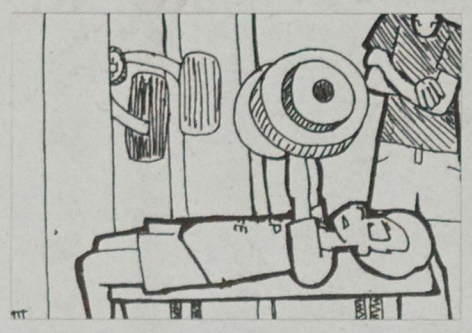
Everything Worked Smoothly
43%

Bring Back MARS!
40%

Note: Results based on 35 votes cast between Nov. 13 and Nov. 18 at www.middleburycampus.com

T.I.M.
(This Is Me)

by Tom McCann & Ryan Reese



Do you guys remember that one time when Tim talked to those sorority girls from Nebraska, or when he found out that he is a fork, or when he was on that hockey team that one time, or that other time when he really liked his carpet? That was awesome…

Tim and his friends pride themselves on their sharp wit, quick humor, brilliantly constructed turns of phrase and deep insight that make the writings of Thoreau seem as though they should be located somewhere between "See Spot Run" and "Green Eggs and Ham" on the children's bookshelf.

The most brilliant recent addition to their oratory repertoire is the use of corporation names to represent their slogan in everyday conversation. For example:

Friend 1: "So, how're you enjoying your split pea soup?"

Tim: "McDonald's man, McDonald's." (McDonald's slogan: "I'm lovin' it"); or

Friend 2: "Tim, I don't know if I should spoon with my friend tonight."

Tim: "Nike, man. Nike." (Nike slogan: "Just Do It")

Speaking of Nike, it's alliances with the likes of Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods are some of the most productive of all time.

These stand alongside some of our other favorite pairings such as peanut butter and jelly, meercats and warthogs (Timon and Pumbaa) and Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. However, Tim and the gang have recently formed an alliance of their own that promises to be far superior to all of the above.

There are some girls in Pearsons and Gifford, and Tim wants to be better friends than they currently are, so the alliance was born. It's not politically or financially motivated. He just wants more friends, there's nothing more to it.

These girls obviously don't like Tim for his personality, but instead for his body.

It's not easy producing a body of such outrageous caliber, but Tim's chiseled form remains a work in progress.

By going to the gym four days a week, Tim, with the help of his personal trainer, has developed a workout program that will soon catch on in Hollywood gyms just as Tae-bo and Pilates recently have.

Each day targets a specific muscle group. Monday's see Tim forging "iron arms." On Tuesday, Tim will be busily growing "legs like oaks" while on Thursday he straps on the Kevlar to create a "bullet-proof chest." Finally, on Friday, when the end of the week rolls around and everyone else breathes a sigh of relief, Tim can be found in the gym as he strives to model himself after ancient Grecian temples with a "back like a pillar of marble."

Unsurprisingly, he is beginning to see results, and so are the girls. One could say, and they do, all the time, that Tim's body is so Chevy ("Like a Rock"). The references to hard things such as iron, oak, bullet-proof stuff, marble and rock are included because Tim desires a muscular frame that will have an equitable level of 'hardness' as the aforementioned resources.

If you need help talking, want to join the hottest new fitness craze east of the Mississipppi or want help forming solid and lasting inter-dormitory relations, PLEASE e-mail Tim at timthisisme@hotmail.com. He's waiting for you. Oh, by the way, North Face man, North Face... (North Face logo: "Never Stop Exploring")

Blazing a Trail Through Community Service
A Night in the Life of Student Firefighters

By David Barker
Staff Writer

For a few frenzied seconds, we owned Main Street. Then again, if you come barreling down any street in a fire engine, you're used to getting the right of way. Riding with some of Middlebury's finest last week, I gained a new appreciation for the professionals who keep us safe from fire. Unknown to me, seven of the 32 volunteer firefighters in the town are Middlebury College students.

You've probably seen them walking around campus with signature Middlebury Fire Department Carhartt jackets, or maybe you've seen a classmate sprinting out of a lecture after his pager starts beeping. The student crew, started in 1988, is on round-the-clock duty, always prepared to hightail it to the fire station in downtown Middlebury when a call comes in.

Volunteering at Middlebury
THE SECOND IN A THREE-PART SERIES

Eric Ambrette '04 sprints to his Oldsmobile on Adirondack View Road. Andrew Barriger '06 hops on his bike. While most calls don't lead to roaring, "Backdraft"-like blazes, the crew treats each call seriously.

One of the not-so-life-threatening calls summoned Ambrette and me to the station last Wednesday. I had just rediscovered that awe-inspiring feeling you get from standing next to a shiny, red fire engine when the mixed crew of adults and students immediately jumped into action.

Each volunteer went to an assigned locker where he or she threw on the bulky, fire-retardant armor — jacket, pants, boots and helmet in less than 10 seconds. A general alarm had been received from a business in town, and a minute later, I was being propelled into the cockpit of Engine 1.

Driver Tom Sullivan pulled a hard right onto Main Street, left hand on the wheel, right hand yanking the horn cord vigorously. Cars found the curb to make way for our brigade of two fire engines and one utility truck. Fire doesn't faze Sullivan, who says he likes to "find 'em hot and leave 'em wet." The call had come from the Vermont State Crafts Center in Frog Hollow. Ambrette hopped out in front of Ben Franklin to direct traffic with a flashlight.

He and I then proceeded into a smoke-free Craft Center where Welcker Taylor '06 and other volunteers were crowded around the smoke alarm. Turns out dust or some other foreign substance had clogged the head and triggered the alarm. Unlike the Middlebury College's alarms, which are wired to Public Safety, business and residential alarms go straight to the station.

Above: Walker Taylor '06, Morgan Prust '06 and Eric Ambrette '04 are among seven Middlebury students who volunteer with the Middlebury Fire Department.

Right: Taylor stands tall next to Engine 1.

Photos by Kimberly Bowker

While most calls don't lead to roaring 'Backdraft'-like blazes, the crew treats each call seriously. ... Their first year, known as 'probation,' involves up to eight hours of weekly training.

Ambrette, still dressed for a run into flames, explained that calls like this one are common. He said the department responds to an actual fire a couple times each semester. Earlier this fall, the crew worked the East Middlebury General Store blaze, which took seven hours to suppress. The crew is also responsible for cleaning up hazardous materials after car crashes.

When space is available, the department takes applications for the student positions. The first year, known as "probation," involves up to eight hours of weekly training and certifications in First Aid, CPR and AED (Automatic External Defilibration).

Captain Myron Selleck has been with the department for 23 years, but his lineage stretches back much further as he is the third of four generations to volunteer at the station. With a few exceptions, he said Middlebury students have been a dependable resource. "Each core of students is stronger than the last," he said.

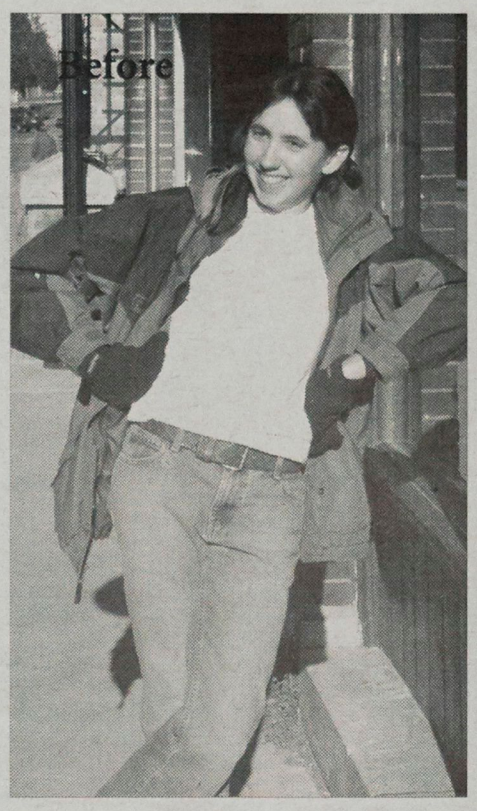
Back at the station, preparations were being made for the monthly meeting later that evening during which Barriger and Morgan Prust '06 would be voted in as full members. A handful of firefighters were busy in the kitchen, dishing up chicken potpie while others set tables. A game of pool built camaraderie that could only help the volunteers in situations when teamwork really counts.

"You're part of a brotherhood," said Chris Loeffler '04. The close ties fostered while working for the department are a big reason why two Middlebury alumni are still volunteers. One alum, Jason Oleet '00, who left Wall Street, now works in Middlebury and is an active member of MFD.

Save for a few cars, Main Street was dead as I walked back to campus. The adrenaline of two hours before having receded, I had a new-found respect for college students who choose to carry the dangerous responsibility of fighting fire while juggling academics and a social life. How easy can it be to tear yourself away from a party or date to speed down to the station?

"It's a way to integrate yourself into town," said Loeffler. Jon Duckworth '04 is in his third year of volunteer service and related a similar sentiment. "I was feeling that I wasn't doing much in the community," he said of his choice to join. Ambrette joined to realize a dream from childhood. "I always wanted to be a firefighter. This was my chance."

Thrift Store Makeover: Abbie Beane

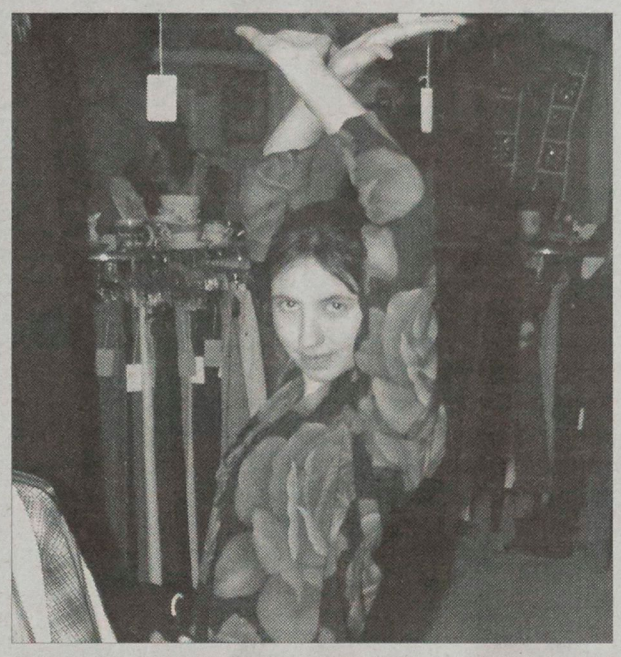


Each week *The Middlebury Campus* will take one member of the Middlebury College community to a local thrift store to revolutionize the way he or she looks at life, liberty and personal style.

Rounding out the Arts section this week was editor extraordinaire Abbie Beane. Hailing from Bethel, Maine, Ms. Beane wants to dedicate this makeover to her mother, Pamela. We walked down to Neat Repeats, exploring second-hand couture's finest offerings. Abbie was able to combine some of the things she most loves in this world for TSM — polka dots, mod swimwear and the 80s. It was hot.

This week's makeover reached unrivaled and unexpected successes. Next time you see Ms. Beane jaunting around the College, take a gander, and you may just see her hot little turtleneck number or her Saturday night velvet spaghetti strap tank.

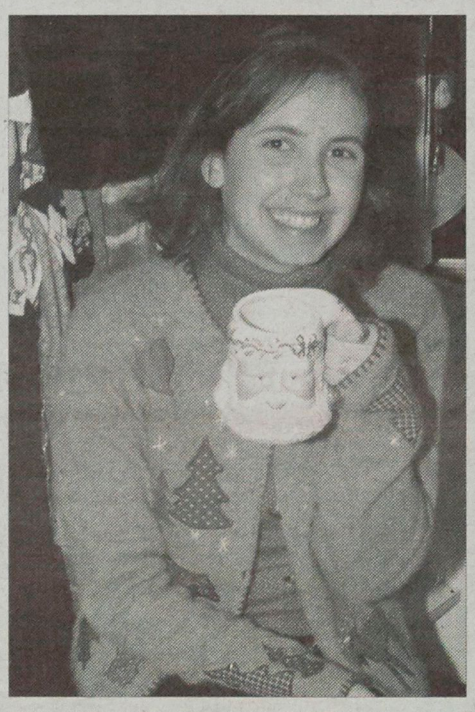
Anyone who knows Abbie knows she's, at the very least, a boisterous and dynamic young lady, so you can only imagine some of the crazy outtakes from this week's penultimate TSM. (Anyone who wants can buy a special edition, unrated DVD of the romp by sending money order for $29.95 + S&H to Lanford Beard c/o the *Campus*.)



Every rose has its thorn
Shirt: $8; Velvet pants: $6

Hot Find of the Week:

Get into the holiday spirit with a spicy sweater fiesta ($8)!



Hip Tips

Don't be afraid to double dip into your separates. Abbie loved one black velvet tank so much that she wore it as a base for several outfits. If you're too timid for the fabulous excess that thriftie offer, at least take advantage of their cheap basics — especially in cold Vermont where layers are essential.

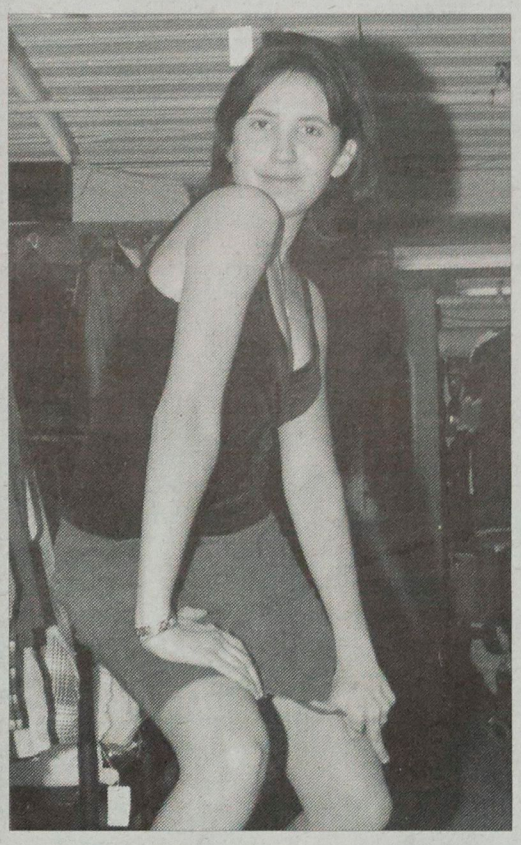
Stock up for old age by buying special occasion wear at the thrifty. Abbie found this grannylicious Christmas sweater and an accompanying red, polka-dot turtleneck for peanuts. Don't splurge on a one-time wear in department stores when you can be festive for almost free!

Throw a theme party (Under the Sea, anyone?), and get all of your accent pieces in town. Abbie's mod bathing suit is just that without any accessories, but coupling it here with a straw mat and some fish dishware, she has a tropical resort in the making.

Girls, don't forget your shoulder pads! Sure, they're slightly ridiculous, but they add dimension to the entire upper torso, seen here by Abbie's 80s outfit. Heck, they even make your hair look bigger ... if that's what you're going for.

Photographs by Schuyler Van Horn

Dancing with myself
Jacket: $7
Pants: $12



Simply irresistible
Black spaghetti tank: $6.50
Skirt: $15; Boots: $15

After — *Beach blanket bingo*
Bathing Suit: $8
Straw mat: $3.50

Now it's your turn!

Depressed by your dorm room?

Need a new look?

If you or anyone you know would like to be the next Thrift Store Makeover, contact Lanford at lbeard@middlebury.edu.

Pop Rocks

by Lanford Beard

Pop culture is a battleground, my friends, and I refuse to pledge allegiance to either side.

Last week, I brought you the newest successes of Justin Timberlake. A couple of weeks before that, a testimony to my own personal journey with Britney Spears. And last November, I reviewed Justin's album, which — incidentally — I still listen to almost daily. I say almost because Britney's newest pop masterpiece, "In the Zone" (released this past Tuesday) has snatched my very soul, and I just want to take a moment to say God Bless MTV for giving me the leak to Brit's record of her ever-evolving self.

The album's biggest drawback as far as the critics will be concerned is that it lacks the unity and artistic coherence that make albums great. But then again, there was the "White Album."

Wow, did I just compare Britney Spears to the Beatles?

Anyhow, for those of you who are concerned about Ms. Spears, you can find comfort in the fact that, even though the album does feel like it was made by someone with split personalities, all of Britney's personalities seem to agree upon the fact that she's still a skank.

Now that she's a woman (thanks, Justin!), Britney can fully exploit her own sexuality to make a quick buck, and she does. Oh yes, she does.

While Justin's album marketed him as this R&B superstar in the mold of Michael Jackson, Britney need not market herself as a superstar in the works because she has proven her superstardom from the get-go.

The album has some similarities to "Justified." For example, the identity confusion centers on two themes — feeling depressed about true love gone wrong or reveling in the fact that now the artist in question can fully realize the sexual liberation that comes with being really, really hot and really, really rich (by far this is the more prevalent theme of both albums).

"In the Zone" begins with "Me Against the Music," which delivers the computer-synthesized angelic chorus of two boy toys at their best — overproduced and in a video that oozes sex and works the lesbian angle and emphasizes the girls' yoga-toned flexibility.

The next song is the "Sing about being hot and naked with [insert name of-the-moment rap artist here]" classic. Even more classic is the title, "(I Got That) Boom Boom." Britney takes a cue from Justin by calling on the Ying Yang Twins to scream "She fine! She fine!" at her in their astonishingly grating voices.

And ah-ha! The long-awaited Justin revenge song finds its place as track number three: "Showdown." Using the template JT set forth with his "Cry Me a River" video, Britney mixes kinky sex with direct challenges, purring,

I dare you to stand in my way
Just give in when you are ready to play.
Here comes the showdown,

See Britney, page 22

AAA Reveals 'Shades of Blackness' with Individualism, Politics

Vlad Lodoaba

AAA's "Shades of Blackness" culture night was bolstered by dynamic dances and a powerful and riveting poetry performance by Crystal Belle '04 (above).

By Charlie Goulding
Assistant Features Editor

Last Saturday, the African-American Alliance (AAA) presented its annual Night of Black Culture, an event which, as organization President Crystal Belle '04 notes, "was created by the AAA [as] a way to celebrate and promote black culture on campus."

This year's show, entitled "Shades of Blackness," was filled with a number of passionate, as well as genuinely touching moments on stage.

The night began with a graceful solo dance performance by Toni Spence '04. Spence moved rhythmically to the bluesy yet hopeful sounds of Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come."

The largely interpretive piece took on a more "real" vibe when Brian Pletcher '04 emerged from behind the curtain and seated himself on stage mid-song. Pletcher unfolded a newspaper and angrily waved away Spence as she approached him. Pletcher then exited, leaving Spence alone to finish her neatly spun, highly-defined piece.

Kelly Gray '07 followed with an a capella rendition of Brian McKnight's "When." Before beginning to sing, Gray meticulously picked off all extraneous strands of fabric from his white collared shirt, drawing a humorous response from the crowd.

Understated, and without trying to show off, Gray simply sang the song, and this imbued it with a genuineness and beauty that is often diluted by many of today's performers who focus their energies on sliding between notes. The song clearly meant something to Gray, whose rendition did a service both to the piece itself and the message of perseverance which it represents.

Belle took the stage next. She was passionate, angry, lucid, eloquent and powerful. She began her performance of a self-written poem by standing up from the chair on which she had sat and throwing it off stage. Ostensibly, the chair tossing came out of nowhere, but Belle's poem justified the jolting intro with its political shrewdness and biting insights.

Belle focused on Black History month, which she referred to as "28 days of delayed justice," and other examples in which popularly cited signs of racial progress mask the continued "enslavement" of black culture.

As another example, Belle referred to Colin Powell — the person people think of when someone asks, "Will we ever have a black president?" — as the marginalized "dove in the Bush administration." According to Belle, the fight for equality has come a long way, but her incisive criticisms undercut the notion that America has progressed far enough.

This was Belle's last Night of Black Culture, which she also organized. Over the years, her artistry and dedication has won the deep respect of her peers — emcee Michael Cooper '06 introduced her as "someone I know I look up to."

Belle added in an interview that she is far from finished in the spotlight — she plans on "pursuing a career in performance poetry as well as becoming an urban news reporter."

> The reason we chose the theme 'Shades of Blackness' was to show the many different talents of the members of our organization.
> — Crystal Belle '04, AAA president

A troupe of steppers followed, and their performance was a microcosm of the whole night — well-prepared, sharp and entertaining.

The routine divided the groups between two competing factions, and genuine tension was created on stage as the two leaders "sized each other up" (one literally did so with the use of a measuring tape). This moment of humor broke the tension, and the two sides joined forces once again, stepping their way smoothly into intermission.

Immediately after intermission, Pletcher gave a juggling performance that was absolutely amazing.

Pletcher has fine-tuned his juggling act to perfection and could very well pursue the talent as a career. Audience response to his performance was muted, however, precisely because his juggling was unable to build off of the energy of the preceding act.

Natalie Fisher '06 recited another self-written poem in the same unique style that has defined her earlier work. Fisher blurs the line between prose and poetry, invoking an academic, analytical, stream of consciousness approach that invites listeners to sit down next to her as she analyzes a scene.

This particular scene depicted an artist painting the skins of people of various races. The message was clear: one must blend many colors together in order to create white skin or black skin, or any other shade of skin — no skin color consists uniformly of one ingredient.

In this sense, Fisher's poem stressed the interconnectedness and the sameness of things, in contrast to other poems and monologues during the show which highlighted the distinctiveness of black culture — what makes it special.

Said Belle, "The reason why we chose the theme 'Shades of Blackness' was to show the many different talents of the members of our organization." Fisher's poem not only showcased her talent, but it also added another dimension to the theme's title, suggesting we are all shades of the same color.

The night concluded with the guest performer — a well-regarded performance poet named Jerry Quickley, who has appeared on such shows as HBO's Def Comedy Jam. Quickley spoke like his name, and his casual, light-hearted, "chill" demeanor belied a fast-paced, sharp, satirical poetic voice that carried immense power.

Quickley got the crowd going with a poem he wrote after he was contracted by Nike entitled "Maximum Sell Out." Nike asked Quickley to write anything he wanted, so long as it included the word's "Nike" twice and "AirMax" twice. After reading in *Newsweek* about Nike's alleged sweatshop operations, Quickley penned the poem. His performance prompted a passionate response from the audience.

Quickley's final poem, about his experiences in Iraq, demonstrated his depth of social awareness and intense sensitivity to the effects of war.

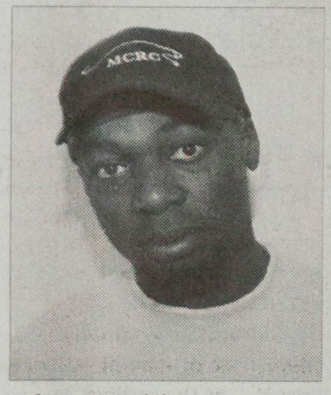
Accompanied by a series of slides Quickley took on his trip, the poem stressed love, not war, in a way that was anything but shallow and cliché. "I refuse to choose war, 'cause I choose you," Quickley ferociously declared to all those affected by terrorism and war both domestically and abroad. Quickley repeated this line multiple times, a tactic he frequently employed to hammer home an idea.

It capped off a night of powerful social messages, emphasizing that the fight for peace and equality is far from over The weapons at our disposal continue to be love, strength, independence and perseverance.

Campus Voices

Who would you like to see as President's McCardell's successor?

Compiled by Charlie Goulding — Photos by Vlad Lodoaba

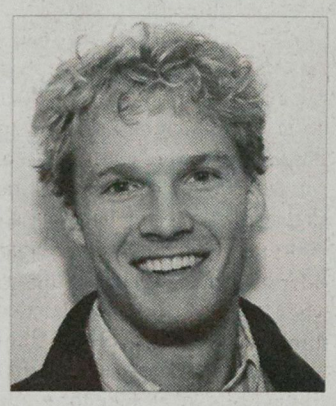


Nelson Mandela.

— Muchadei Zvoma '07

I'm going to resign as a student and take up the Presidency.

— Stan Doroshenko '06



Mathew Biette, head of Dining Hall Services.

— Dan Smarg '06

Gray Davis.

— Jason Siegel '06

Culture Shock Stages International Talents

By Abigail Mitchell
Staff Writer

It was a Friday night and McCullough Social Space was bordering on maximum capacity. All seats were taken and the remaining space was crowded with those who opted to stand. Every one was there for a good shock — a Culture Shock.

On Nov. 14, the International Student Organization (ISO) held its annual Fashion Show. Show committee co-chairs Joseph Kristiaan, Alexander Salvador-Guido and Joyce Mann, all sophomores, organized the show with the support of Ross and Wonnacott Commons and Middlebury Asian Students Organization.

Celebrating the diversity of cultures represented in Middlebury's student body, ISO managed to stage the production with style, flair and even a degree of shock.

The show featured a variety of dances, skits and fashion exhibitions from each of seven regions. Bright colors, dramatic lighting and electric energy set the mood of the evening.

The audience looked with awe as Africa kicked off the show, represented by the quick coordinated movements of gumboot dancers as they stomped and slapped their hefty boots in unison. The audience was informed that the gumboot dance was developed by African mine laborers as a means of communication. As the lights intensified, the stage was transformed into a runway exhibiting the deep purples and greens of the selections from traditional African dress.

Next, the show moved on to East Asia with an influx of techno, fans, flashy lighting and rhythm. The pieces focused on modern Asian culture. A highlight was a martial arts piece that featured Middlebury students with a dramatic battle featuring choreographed stunts worthy of a Jackie Chan film.

The North American portion began with a tap dance to "Cotton Eyed Joe" performed by On Tap. The rest of the pieces focused more on modern pop culture with a J.Lo hip-hop dance followed by the GT Breakers showing off their skills and the rivalry between East coast versus West coast.

Latin America was up next with an impressive selection of music ranging from classical to pop. The mood started out lighthearted with a traditional Nicaraguan dance and then, before the audience had time to catch up, a serious and somber mood set in with a short yet powerful skit depicting the violence in Colombia resulting from the drug trade. Guns and cocaine helped to convey that drug trafficking was holding the country hostage.

The Caribbean portion of the show brought about a fun, upbeat mood with sensual dancing and colorful costumes. In addition to dancing, a skit was featured which depicted a typical Caribbean bedtime story told by a mother to her child. As is traditional, this story contained a moral for the young child. The moral of this particular story was "Be wary of witchcraft," according to Natlie Fisher '06.

The European segment concentrated more on old culture with a depiction of a Balkan wedding followed by a Russian choir and then a fashion show of both traditional and modern European fashion.

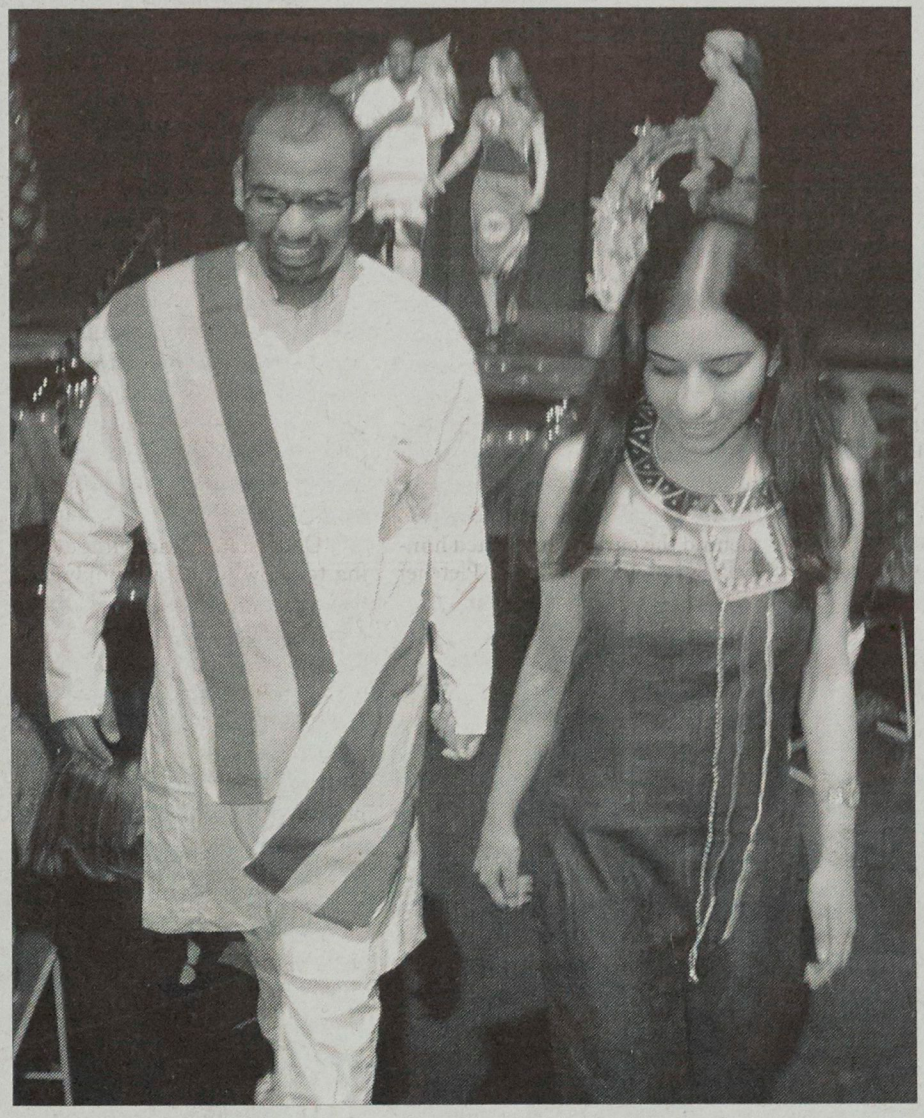
Elaborate traditional clothing and a fun buoyancy of mood represented South Asia.

The flavor of the show could be summed up in two words: spirit and energy. There was even a moment when a dancer, in a burst of exuberance, managed, although most likely unintentionally, to fling her shoe to the ceiling.

"It was fun to see kids you only know from class in such a different setting," Tory Watts '06 said.

ISO president Sumaya Huque '06 had a clear purpose in mind when organizing the show.

"We represent the greater world outside of Middlebury. We are a group dedicated to showing the rest of the student body where we come from, not only to show Americans the ways of our cultures but also to learn more about the culture of America," Huque said. Culture Shock 2003 accomplished just that.



Above: Epeli Rokotuiveikau '04 performs at the ISO Culture Shock event last weekend.

Left: Yared Gurmu '04 parades traditional African fashion down the McCullough aisle.

Photos by Vlad Lodoaba

Forum Exposes Possibilities, Setbacks of Life on Wheels

By Grace Kronenberg
Staff Writer

When I walked out of Proctor after a satisfying Monday lunch, I immediately regretted eating the chocolate chip cookie I had just finished. In the lobby I was greeted by trays of monstrous, chocolate frosted cookies, which, upon a second glance, were decorated with wheelchairs. Excited by the possibility of a second dessert, I stopped at the table. Todd Falcone '03.5 and Jason Fleishman '03.5, two students seated at the table, eagerly offered me a cookie and an explanation of why exactly they were distributing frosted wheelchair cookies.

The wheelchair cookies, offered at Ross and Proctor at lunchtime on Monday, marked the beginning of Middlebury's second annual Accessibility Awareness Week, entitled, "Look at the Possibilities…"

Accessibility Awareness Week was conceptualized last fall in Assistant Professor of Biology David Parfitt's neuroscience seminar "Neural Disorders: Individuals, Families and Society." As the students learned about the neurological bases of a variety of disorders, they also began to consider the difficulty of living with a debilitating illness. From their discussions evolved the idea of a week-long forum on issues of handicapped accessibility on campus.

Says Kate Stamper '04, member of Parfitt's course and one of the organizers of this year's Accessibility Awareness Week: "Basically, we wanted to raise awareness on campus, to encourage able students to consider what it might be like to navigate Middlebury's campus on a inclement winter day. The idea of a weeklong forum fell out of the idea that maybe we could teach people about accessibility through personal experience."

"Midd Accessibility: It's an uphill battle," as last year's forum was titled, included extensive publicity, film showings and a panel discussion involving local residents and two Middlebury students who use wheelchairs. The culmination of the week, perhaps the most visible manifestation of the forum, was Wheelchair for a Day, when almost 40 students had the opportunity to be a wheelchair bound for a day.

This year's forum follows a similar format, further emphasizing the impressive accomplishments of people with disabilities in addition to the constant battle of accessibility.

Films shown this week included "A New Sense of Place" on Monday night, "Without Barriers or Borders" on Tuesday night and "No Barriers: The Mark Wellman Story" on Wednesday night. Each of the movies highlighted extraordinary individuals who had overcome adversity — a talented deaf percussionist, a blind photographer, a paraplegic who skis cross-country in the Sierras.

Similar to last year, a panel lunch discussion will be held today in BiHall 220 at 12:30 p.m. The panel will be include Middlebury College ADA Coordinator Jodi Litchfield and ADA consultant Jim Ross, a representative from Elderly Services/Project Independence and Rose Hotte, a Vergennes woman with multiple sclerosis.

Thursday will mark the end of "Look at the Possibilities…" as interested students set out to conquer campus in a wheelchair for a day.

Though there are no wheelchair-bound students currently at Middlebury, accessibility is still an important concern. Stamper pointed to the fact that disabled students interested in coming to Middlebury may be deterred by the overall inaccessibility of the campus itself.

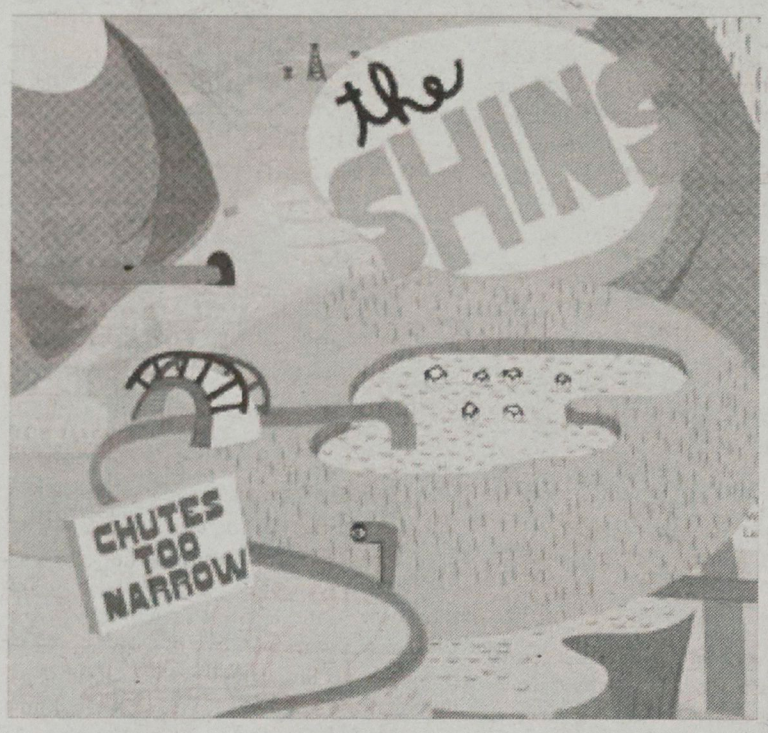
She affirmed, "Middlebury is a wonderful place to be — anyone who chooses should be able to take advantage of what it has to offer. One's disability should not be a restraining factor."

Stamper also emphasized the importance of making accessibility a priority as the campus is expanding on a variety of fronts. "Accessibility needs to be common sense, an automatic consideration when designing a space. Too often it is a mere afterthought."

When you notice wheelchair-for-a-day participants on Thursday, take a minute to imagine how your life as a Middlebury student would change if you were confined to one yourself. Forget running up stairs when you're late for your class on the fourth floor of Munroe, reconsider navigating Ross at dinnertime when there's turkey on the menu, think about what you might do out on a typical Saturday night — simple tasks we all take for granted are suddenly huge concerns. Accessibility is a very real issue, even in our beloved bubble.

Blowin' Indie Wind

by Erika Mercer



The artist: The Shins
The album: "Chutes Too Narrow"
Release Date: Sept. 9, 2003

Featured on WRMC's "Album of the Week" this Sunday, 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Remember the Everlasting Gobstopper — that multi-colored, totally irresistible candy treat manufactured by the wacky Mr. Wonka? That ideal, never-ending confectionary wonder that was sure to sizzle nasty Slugworth?

Well, the Gobstopper has been trumped.

Slide down a chute into James Mercer's basement, and you'll see the machine at work, molding scrumptious morsels for good boys and girls everywhere to enjoy. Sweet, strange and savory, the candy that Mr. Mercer & Co. serves up is better than anything you'd taste in Wonkaland. One lick, and you'll never want anything else.

They call themselves the Shins, and they'll tempt you to think that making treats is effortless. But think again. Wonka devoted his life to pleasing the palate — the Shins didn't concoct their candy overnight. In fact, the quartet of candy-makers began their process in 1992 in Albuquerque, N.M., under the alias Flake then toyed with several different names until settling on the Shins in 1997.

Even then, the workers toiled on their machine until 2001, when out popped "Oh, Inverted World," the first delicious delectable that they let leave their basement factory. And oh boy, was it good. Critics everywhere snapped it up, fell victim to its curious flavor and praised the cleverness of its creators. What did it taste like? Well, subtle, mellow. Kind of sweet but twangy. Fresh, unusual, intensely likeable. One of the best homemade treats to grace shelves in a while.

But like Wonka, who knew he could surpass even his own famous chocolate, the Shins returned to their machine, tinkered with its parts, adding colorful buttons and setting new wheels in motion — all in an effort to prove that their weird, inverted world still had many undiscovered hills and valleys.

Then, in 2003, "Chutes Too Narrow" slid out of the machine, confirming that the two years of tinkering was worth it. Even more flavorful than the Gobstopper — and a lot more colorful — "Chutes Too Narrow" explodes in your mouth, hitting every taste bud. Melodies twist and swirl, guitars tweak and twinge and drums roll and shuffle in the background. Somehow elegant, somehow cute, somehow rocking and somehow subdued, this creation satisfies your every mood and craving.

It offers 10 flavors in one — from the sparkling, loud, playful tang of the first song, "Kissing The Lipless," to the grand, lavish, classical quality of the fifth song, "Saint Simon," to the faint and delicate trace of the final song, "Those To Come." There is nothing boring about this treat. Taste it over and over again, it won't lose its flavor.

> "Chutes Too Narrow" explodes in your mouth, hitting every taste bud. Melodies twist and swirl, guitars tweak and twinge and drums roll and shuffle in the background.

And who are the mysterious candy geniuses? Hard at work behind the scenes you'll find vocalist and guitarist Mercer, keyboardist Marty Crandall, bassist Dave Hernandez and drummer Jesse Sandoval. But don't think that just because they've released their treats for the world to enjoy they're prepared to give away their secret. Oh, no. They speak another language, a cryptic, riddling language that leaves us to furrow our sad little brows in confusion. "An address to the golden door I was strumming on a stone again pulling teeth from the pimps of gore when hatched a tragic opera in my mind." So say they on "So Says I," the third song on the album. Gross and beautiful, magical and visceral — what are we left to deduce but everything?

The Shins will no more give away the meaning of their songs than Wonka would divest the ingredients of his Gobstopper. Trying to decode lyrics will leave you more befuddled than before, so just sit back and enjoy this everlasting piece of candy.

Study Abroad Images Grace The Grille

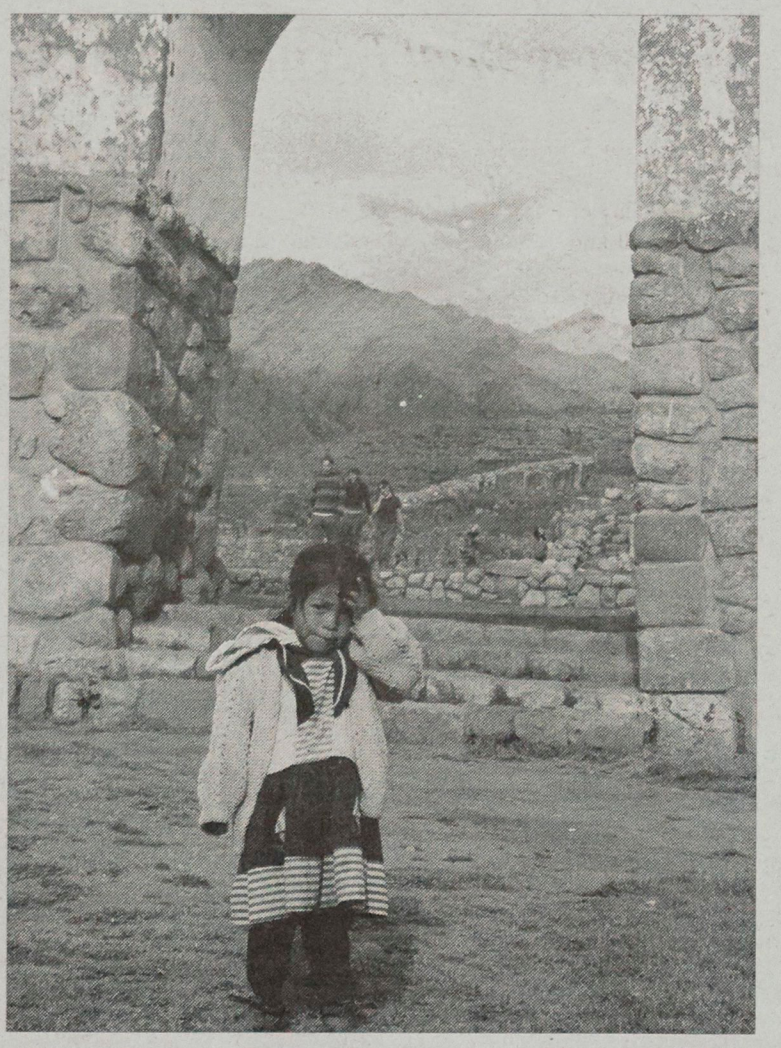
By Hans Manzke
Staff Writer

For many Middlebury students, the study abroad program presents the opportunity of a lifetime. While immersed in a foreign language or a specific country's culture, there comes, very rarely, the occasion to experience a brief moment in time that one will remember for the rest of one's life. Those participating in the Study Abroad Photo Contest were lucky enough to have such an experience, as attested to by their beautiful and arresting images on display at The Grille last week.

Fifteen aspiring shutterbugs exhibited snapshots of their experiences while studying abroad during the 2002-2003 academic year, revealing intimate and stirring snapshots of life outside of our own country. Some submissions included breathtaking views of the natural and manmade worlds, others portraits with a very human touch, while still others melded the two. Judging took place on Wednesday, with prizes to be awarded to each of the participants. *The Middlebury Campus* had the opportunity to talk to the Grand Prize, First Runner-Up, and 3rd place winners in order to lend a little insight into the incredible experiences of these students.

Ben Spitz '04 captured third place with his entry, entitled "I Should Have Asked her Name." Taken in Pisac, Peru during the 2002-2003 academic year, Spitz's photograph presents the viewer with a young, traditionally dressed Peruvian girl. Spitz cites this type of photograph as an "anthropological artifact," adding that he had misgivings regarding his possible contribution to the exploitation of the tourist-dictated lives of the natives. While his observations are directly applicable and pertinent, the photographer was lucky enough to experience an image powerful enough to last for a lifetime. Spitz's portrait truly is worth a thousand words, inspiring appreciation and introspection.

The First Runner-Up spot was taken by fellow senior Louisa Conrad. Photographed in Varanasi, India during Winter Term 2003, her submission, entitled "Offerings to the Ganges," contrasts India's deep sense of spirituality with its pervasive poverty. Conrad captured an image of a girl selling spiritual offerings along India's largest and most important river. She went on to explain that these offerings were meant for the Ganges itself, called "Ganga-Gi" or the Mother Ganges. Considered to be a holy river, many devout Hindus view the Ganges as the cradle of life for their country, providing purification and spiritual accessibility. Conrad's image provides an elegant and simple window into the tenuous world of Indian culture.



Ben Spitz

"My misgivings largely disappeared as her big brown eyes beamed at me in gratitude, while spectacularly white teeth contrasted with a dirt-smeared face in the most radiant smiles I remember seeing."

Completing the senior class' strong showing, Kirsten Thomas '04 took the Grand Prize with her enchanting photograph "Namib Sunrise." Thomas passionately expresses, "I like the picture aesthetically, the colors came out wonderfully, and it serves as a wonderful reminder for me of the 5 months I spent in the country." Captured in Namibia during the 2003 spring semester, the sand dune depicted is the largest in the Namib desert. Thomas was especially pleased with the contrast of light and dark and the striking nature of the blue sky. Reflecting on her photograph and her experience in Namibia, Thomas characterized her image as a commanding memento of her time spent abroad. "Namib Sunrise" is as striking as it is austere.

After voting concluded, third place finisher Spitz was awarded a $25 gift certificate to Mister Up's, while first runner-up Louisa Conrad received brunch for two at Tully and Marie's. For her image, Grand Prize Winner Thomas obtained one round trip airfare to a continental U.S. destination, courtesy of Milne Travel. All 15 participants were awarded prizes from local establishments, ranging from Forth n' Goal goods to College Store gift certificates.

The Study Abroad Photo Contest not only provided the college community with an excellent opportunity to experience student experiences firsthand, but also to reflect on the vast possibilities that our world holds.

Louisa Conrad

"This photo is of a girl I spoke with on my daily morning walks along the ghats (steps) in Varanasi. She sold the offerings she was showing me to pay for her school books."

Student Musicians Master the Legends

Instrumental Recital Upholds the Bar Set By Professionals

By Sadie Hoagland
Staff Writer

The ability of music to orchestrate emotions is a well-known human experience. The classical perfection that echoed through the halls of the Center For the Arts last Friday during a student-dominated instrumental recital was no exception. The concert, entitled "Nine Students and a Music Librarian," was a memorable display of Middlebury College talent in which one became inexorably lost in the music.

The concert began with a piano solo by Jessica Manzer '05 that set a high standard for the evening. Manzer played Chopin's "Nocturne in F Minor, Opus 55, No. 1," a remarkable piece that may sound familiar to those who have recently seen the critically acclaimed film "The Pianist" (though in the film he plays the "Nocturne in C Minor"). Manzer played the piece without hesitation or fault, and the lone sound of the piano satisfied the ears completely.

From Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No. 1, Opus 11 Ian Ausprey '04, Chin Hin Leung '04, Andrew Lindblad '05 and Jonathan Stuart-Moore '05 performed the "Andante Cantabile." The piece flourished as Stuart-Moore on the cello and Lindblad on the viola added depth and dimension to the already hypnotizing melody. The song quickened pace and was enriched by the plucking of the instruments as Leung, playing a violin solo, continued on melody. The four instrumentalists continued to play the Third Movement of the piece, though it was not on the program, delighting the spectators further with a lively harmony reminiscent of a cat and mouse chase scene, a minuet climbing the scales and creating a rich climax.

Annabelle Cazes '06 was next on stage, performing Moszkowski's "Étude No. 6 in F major" (from "15 Études de Virtuosité Per Aspera, Opus 72. Cazes' fingers were a blur as she kept the fast pace of the notes with incredible precision. Using the full range of notes, the music of the piano evoked awe, especially given the visible concentration of the musician.

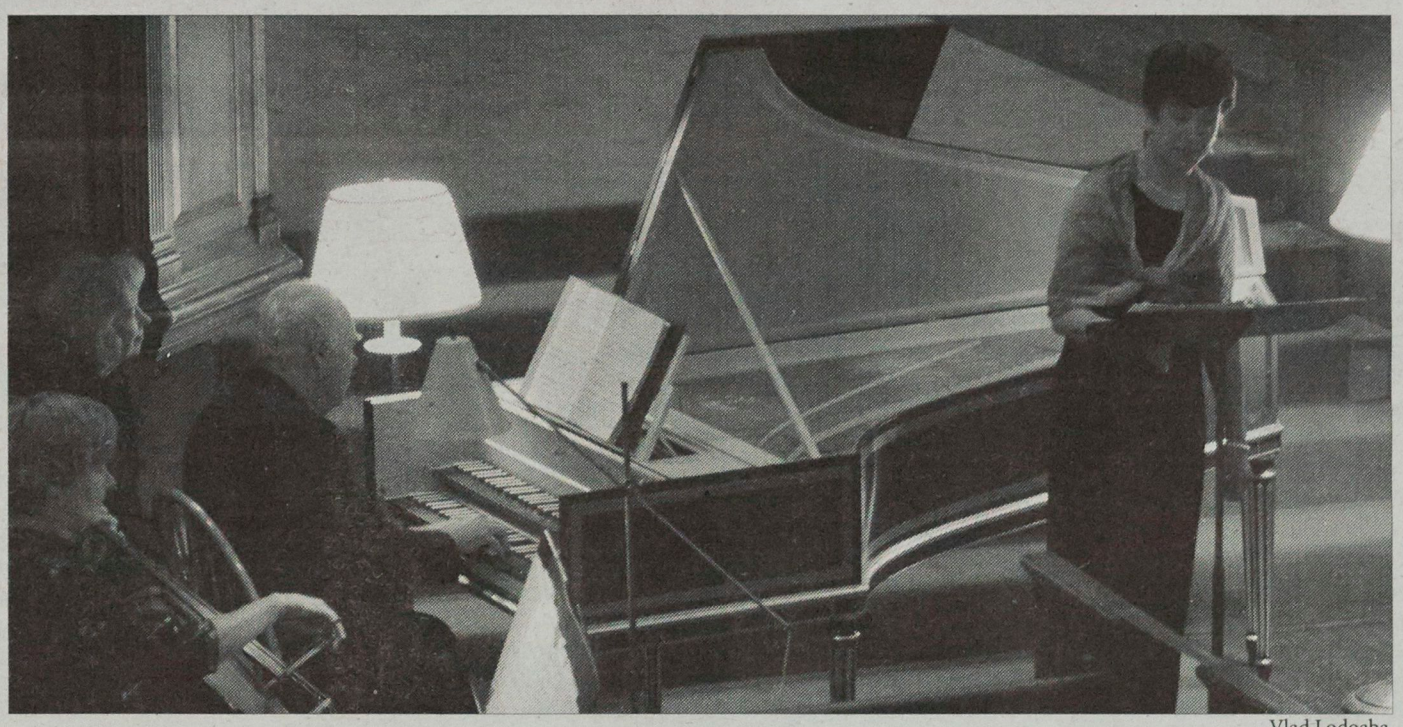
The recital continued with duets — Lindblad returned on the viola to accompany Daniel Koppel '04 on the piano as they performed Rachmanioff's "Vocalise, Opus 34, No. 14." Shortly following, Cynthia Huard, an assistant in music in the Middlebury College Music Department, played the piano while Leung returned with the violin for an evocative rendition of Debussy's "Sonata." The two instruments created a wonderful harmony, justifying the dramatic transitions of the piece.

Leung remained on stage to further display his astounding talent on the violin. He brilliantly performed two selections from Bach's "Partita No. 2 in D Minor." The baroque delicacy was mastered by the chilling sound of Leung's violin as his skill exemplified loud and soft alterations, the falling scales and the varying pace of the song.

Michio Painter '06 followed Leung on the piano with "Novelette sur un thème de Manuel de Falla, Opus 173" by Poulenc. Painter's hands lay dramatically into the keys as he held onto the final notes of the song, letting the sounds echo throughout the concert hall. Also on the program was Music Librarian Dan Frostman, playing the oboe. The oboe, sounding like a haunted and darker flute, played Britten's "Six Metamorphoses after Ovid, Opus 49." Frostman played three sections, each a musical interpretation of the transformations of Pan, Narcissus and Arethusa. Frostman narrated the story before playing each piece, allowing the audience's imagination to read the music and create the scenes. The oboe was a unique addition to the concert, and Frostman demonstrated magnificent skill.

For the grand finale of the evening, Koppel returned to the stage in a staggering performance of Beethoven's "Piano Sonata, No. 15 in D major, Opus 28." Koppel played four sections of this piece, and his performance lasted several minutes. He played without flaw, proving precision as well as endurance. Koppel used no music, and the man and the piano seemed to work as one as he stunned the spectators over and over again. The piece went from slow to fast, peaking emotions as it hung in a perfect balance between thick and thin harmony. The work is one that is familiar to most, but Koppel's performance gave a fresh sound to the melody. Koppel's talent was made clear by the variety of paces he maintained throughout the stages of the piece. The audience, already impressed with the recital, was left breathless as Koppel's fingers hit the last notes.

Celebration of the Baroque



Vlad Lodoaba

Filling Mead Chapel with the sounds of the Baroque period, *mezzo-soprano Jennifer Carol Hansen (far right) performs with Emory Fanning on harpsichord and Dieuwke Davydov on cello as part of the Atwater Commons-sponsored "Celebration of the Baroque" on Sunday.*

Editors' Picks

(Hey, get outta town.)

Chris' Pick

99.9 The Buzz Welcomes DEFTONES THRICE | THURSDAY: Along with Limp Bizkit and other nu-metal bands, Deftones are often considered to be disciples of Korn, but in fact, they've been around for just as long — if not longer. They were also one of the first groups to alternate heavy riffs and screamed vocals with more ethereal music and hushed singing — spawning a fair amount of imitators in their wake. The group first formed in Sacramento, Calif. in 1988, when then-high school students Stephen Carpenter (guitar), Abe Cunningham (drums) and Chino Moreno (vocals) first began to jam together. Although the group was more heavy metal-based early on, the early '90s saw Deftones expand their sound even further, obviously inspired by such groundbreakers as Tool, Rage Against the Machine and Faith No More.
Date: Monday, Nov. 24
Where: Memorial Auditorium, Burlington
When: doors 6 p.m.
Price: $25 advance + fees
Info: www.highergroundmusic.com

Abbie's Pick

WARREN MILLER'S "JOURNEY" From legendary filmmaking company, Warren Miller Entertainment, comes a new film packed with incredible action cinematography from around the globe. "Journey" takes viewers along for the ride in the quest for perfect snow conditions from Aspen to Chile and Alaska to Morocco and features 73 athletes — including Glen Plake, Bode Miller and Terje Haakonsen — in a mountain rider's dream brimming with tricks and talent. This "journey" will be perfect for any and all eagerly anticipating the fresh "pow pow" this winter. Which isn't to say that the flat-landers wouldn't have a good time too. It's time to gear up, even though you might not be heading anywhere quite as glamorous as South America.
Date: Saturday, Nov. 22 to Sunday, Nov. 23
Where: MainStage, Burlington
When: 6 and 9 p.m. | 5 and 8 p.m.
Price: $14.50 students | $16.00 adults
Info: www.flynncenter.com

The Reel Critic
by Matthew Clark

Spike Lee's latest joint, "25th Hour," is the first film I have seen set in post-9/11 New York. There is an American flag blowing or hanging in every scene, reminding the viewer that America and events bigger than ourselves will continue. It is a tragic movie about the 24 hours before Monty Brogan (Edward Norton) goes to jail to serve a seven-year drug-dealing sentence.

The title, "25th Hour," is a revealing one. There are only 24 hours in a day. There is no 25th hour. The 25th hour is the time that might have been, that could have been if only there were another hour in the day. It isn't those seven years Monty will spend in jail — it is what his life could have been out of jail during those seven years. We will never know what would have filled that time but can only speculate about what might have been.

Throughout the movie we see fate and destiny struggling against choice and chance. Monty rescues a broken, bloodied dog from traffic, naming him Doyle of Doyle's Law — "Everything that can go wrong, will go wrong." Does Monty have to go to jail? Could it have been avoided? "This life all came so close to never happening," Monty's father (Brian Cox) narrates as he drives Monty to jail. Are the choices we make in our lives destined or decided? In the end, does Monty need to be as broken as Doyle was in the beginning?

Lee has done a masterful job stitching the characters together into a web that ripples through time and space no matter where it is touched. The movie moves fluidly from scene to scene, introducing Monty's buddies — an arrogant Wall Street investor, Francis Xavier Slaughtery (Berry Pepper) and a quietly fumbling English teacher, Jacob Elinsky (Philip Seymour Hoffman). We see the complexities of friendship and love, trust and loyalty in one climactic scene under an old archway. Slaughtery's anguish and Monty's taunts are unavoidably real as Monty coaxes his friend into "doing him one last favor." The bruises and blood will save him in jail, meaning that Monty must appear somewhat roughed up in order to escape the beatings of other inmates. The thuds of punches and Doyle's barking are muted as Slaughtery pummels Monty's face. All that is left is the sound of birds flying away. Where are they going? What are they taking with them? Will they be back?

"25th Hour" is a film about second chances — about starting over. It makes me think of T. S. Eliot's "Waste Land" — "These fragments I have shored against my ruins." The feeling is pervasive throughout the dull blue-gray filtered light of the city. Jacob and Francis discuss Monty's fate while looking over the ruins of Ground Zero. How will they piece their fractured lives back together after Monty is gone? Later, Monty unleashes a scathing tirade addressed to every ethnic and socially distinct group in the city, hating everyone in the city and blaming them for all that is wicked and wrong with the world. Eventually, staring into the mirror, hating everything he has become and everything he has thrown away, Monty understands that it is he who must change. He has to start over. He has to begin anew with what he has left.

I am left optimistic by Spike Lee's portrayal of the post-9/11 world. Wounds heal, cities will rebuild, and it all can happen in the 24 hours a day we are given.

"25th Hour"
Rating: R — strong language and some violence
Running Time: 2 hr. 8 min.
Genre: Drama
Cast: Edward Norton, Barry Pepper, Philip Seymour Hoffman
Director: Spike Lee

Students Branch Out From Musical Mainstream Currents

Campus Music Poll Shows Popular Music Shunned With Increasing Frequency

By Abbie Beane
Arts Editor

Only in a setting so accepting of such a vast spread of musical genres and in a time when tastes in music are so diversified, could you find your listening preferences so threatened — often by bands and singers who fall outside the celebrity bracket. Such an overwhelming academic environment can be like a pressure cooker for "mainstream" tastes and artists who shamelessly sell themselves to the commercial music industry. In a random survey last weekend of 100 students' music preferences, the questions raised were more plentiful than those asked. The main issue is not only, "What are we listening to these days?" but more importantly "Who are we listening to on low volume? And why?" When did it become a near "taboo" to listen to popular music and artists — something one now feels he or she must either completely deny or tout proudly in an effort to fend off any forthcoming criticism.

One theory could be that in the close confines of the small, New England, liberal arts "almighty intelligence arena" where everyone's watching your style as well as your scores, simple lyrics (even if against the catchy back drop of a smashing dance beat) are seen as cheap and vapid — devoid of the necessary ingenuity that comes from artists who write their own, often more abstract lyrics and music. Somewhere along the way the synthesizer lost its "umf" and its popular appeal, which isn't to say it won't or shouldn't make a comeback in the future.

As one sophomore told *The Middlebury Campus*, "I think it's very much taboo here to like non-obscure, popular music like 80s cheese, for example Def Leppard. There is nothing wrong with liking music that is or has been popular. Long live good, old fashioned rock and roll."

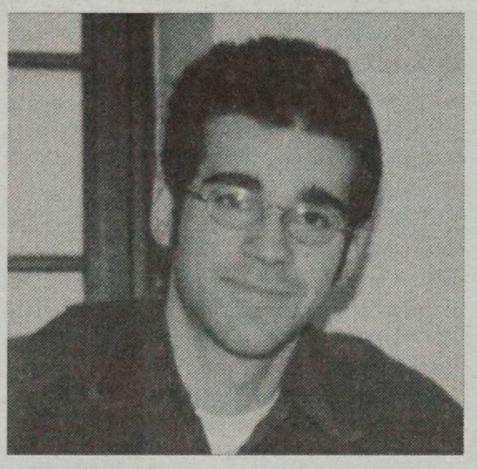
Yet in some cases students feel that it's not just the general Middlebury College public heckling the media hogs — it's everyone, though we're naturally fascinated by them as a culture. Maybe their unpopularity simply seems more pronounced here.

Furthermore, this is not to discount those who simply don't give a "flying Figaro" about what other students think regarding their musical favorites. Several of the 100 students surveyed in a music poll last weekend claimed that they simply "don't care" what people think about their music tastes.

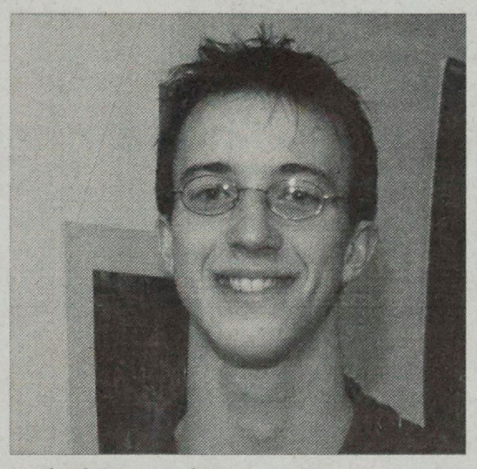
The pie charts below pin-point more specifically what we're talking about, showing where student music preferences stand in the here and now. The five student voices featured to the right delve into why exactly students feel certain artists and genres are strictly forbidden from the bragging rights section of that old "case logic."

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST IN HIDING AND WHY DO YOU FEEL HE OR SHE IS STRITCLY TABOO AT MIDDLEBURY?

LAST WEEKEND THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS DID A MUSIC SURVEY OF 100 STUDENTS IN ROSS DINING HALL IN SEARCH OF THE MOST POPULAR MUSICAL GENRES ON CAMPUS, AS WELL AS A FEW "TABOO" ARTISTS, WHICH STUDENTS LOVE TO LISTEN TO, YET HATE TO ADMIT TO. THESE FIVE STUDENTS SHARE THEIR STORIES.

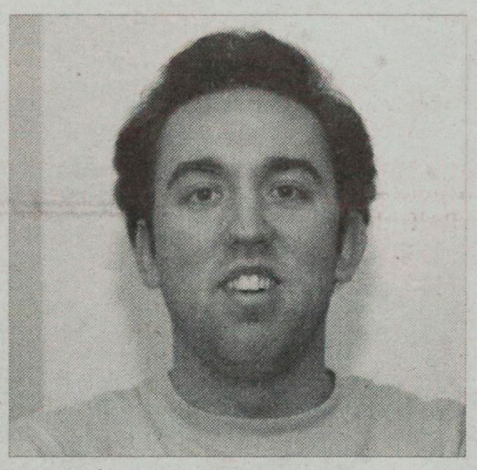


Michael Deni '04
Artist: Steve Winwood: 80s Pop
Favorite Songs: "Higher Love" and "Back in the High Life"
Michael's Take: That album with "Freedom Overspin" and "Back in the High Life" is my favorite, and the only one besides the "Good Love" album I've heard. I mean, what more do you need of Steve Winwood than that album? It's got the synthesizer, fake strings, gospel back-up singers, James Taylor and bucket-loads of serotonin. But Steve Winwood is definitely taboo everywhere. My theory is that when people hear a song like "Higher Love," they have two options. Admit that it brings them practically to tears, or remain comfortably aloof and resort to scorn. It's cool to come down on Steve Winwood, so they often side with the latter. I think everyone is a closet Steve Winwood fan.

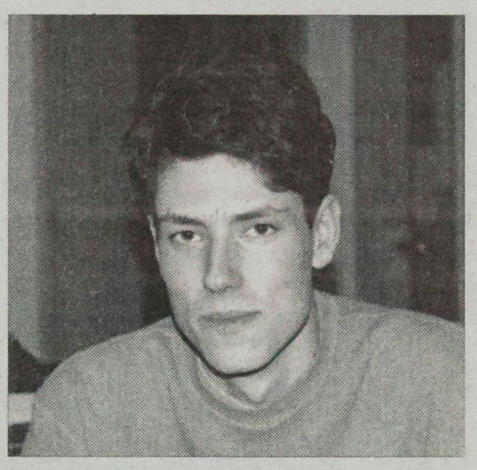


Karl Whittington '04
Artist: Eminem: Popular Rap
Favorite Album: "The Marshall Mathers LP"
Favorite Songs: "Superman" and "Soldier" from "The Eminem Show."
Karl's Take: I think Eminem is especially taboo at Middlebury because everyone strives for political correctness, which Eminem certainly doesn't embody. Listening to Eminem may be less taboo in other parts of the country, but I think that it is still generally considered taboo in most upper or middle class settings, like Middlebury. In some ways I'm really the one that considers the music taboo because I disagree in principle with a lot of Eminem's misogynistic and homophobic lyrics. At the same time, though, you have to appreciate him first and foremost as a musician and comedian, and realize that he doesn't even mean half of the things he says.

Sarah Lauing '07
Artist: Britney Spears and N'Sync: Pop
Favorite Songs: "I Want You Back" from N'Sync or "Stronger" by Britney off the album "Oops, I Did It Again"
Sarah's Take: I don't actually own any albums because I've been too embarrassed to buy them. I listen to it [pop — Britney Spears and N'Sync] on low volume no matter where I go. Who still listens to 90s pop? It's not "good music" and it's really cheesy. But I like it. I like to listen to it at the gym to pump me up. Seems it's taboo anywhere to listen to the same stuff you listened to when you were 13 and I believe everyone thinks it's taboo.



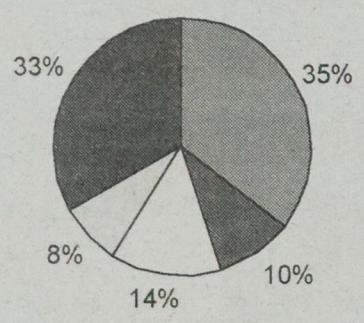
Eric Vos '05
Genre: Christian Music
Favorite Songs: "Let it Rain" by Michael W. Smith
Favorite Album: "The Anatomy of the Tongue in Cheek" by Relient K.
Eric's Take: I think that I'm a pretty big fan of Christian music considering it's pretty much all that I listen to anymore. I wouldn't correlate how much musical "stuff" I own of any particular artist's [with how much I love him or her], but rather how much the music has infused into my lifestyle. It's hard for me to really subscribe to any specific artist or even a few artists. I'm simply attracted to Christian music that is written by artists who are walking in the Spirit, as evidenced in the lyrics they write. I am reluctant to call Christian music exactly "taboo" because I think that's a bit too strong of a word. Christian music is the fastest growing music genre in America and in many parts of the world. I guess I would call it a "minority" music group just because anything associated with conservative Christianity at Middlebury is, more generally, "taboo." I am not ashamed to listen to it or that other people know that.



Ricky Spero '04
Artist: Boyz II Men: 90s Pop/R&B
Favorite Songs: "Thank You" and "Motownphilly"
Ricky's Take: Among young people it's cool to mock pop. It's cool to hate the industry and blow off the artists. That's all fine, but there's a reason good pop is so commercially successful — it's emotive, it's sexual and it's visceral. There's nothing subtle about it. The music drives people to listen, to sing and to dance, but that doesn't mean pop isn't made with care. The people who engineer pop music are brilliant, and some of the artists are exceptionally talented. In my experience, people that listen to bands like Wilco, The Flaming Lips, Sigur Rós or the reigning principles of rock like Radiohead often have a severely limited vocabulary. To be "phat," a song has to be intense. To be sweet, it has to be experimental. To be brilliant, it has to be complex. But I'm satisfied as long as a song is effective. If a song is supposed to get kids to bump and grind and it surpasses that goal (even with obvious chords, obscene vocal acrobatics and a mix saturated with compression and delay), I say ignore the marketing machine and turn up the stereo.

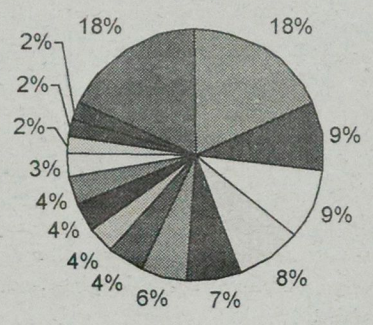
The Students Have Spoken: Genres That Jive, Artists We Hide

Top 4 Genres Under Which "Taboo" Artists at Middlebury are Classified



35% Pop
10% Country
14% Classical
8% Show Tunes
33% Other

Top 14 Most Prefered Music Genres



Key

18% Rock
9% R&B
9% Alternative
8% Pop
7% Indie Rock
6% Oldies
4% Christian
4% Latin
4% Rap
4% Country
3% Dance
2% Hip Hop
2% Techno
2% NewAge/ World
18% Other

Redford Reexamines Reality of Relationships

By Sara Granstrom and Jackie Hurwitz
Staff Writers

With the snarl of an airplane engine, James Redford's "Spin" takes the classic family drama beyond conventional expectations. Based on the novel by Middlebury College graduate Don Axinn '51, the film explores the nature and endurance of human ties of blood and affection. But hold the tissues. Despite its sometimes sentimental nature, the film is lightened by frequent bouts of comic relief that reveal the complexity in every familial relationship.

The characters are introduced in the aftermath of a great tragedy. A fatal plane crash in rural Arizona leaves Eddie (Ryan Merriman) an orphan after the death of his parents, the two pilots. He must live the remainder of his childhood in the care of farm hand Ernesto (Rubén Blades) and a teacher Margaret (Dana Delany). Absent for most of his life, Eddie's uncle (Stanley Tucci) returns from the Air Force only to fulfill Eddie's father's wish for Eddie to learn to fly. As Eddie grows to adolescence, his identity as a nearly adopted son of Ernesto and Margaret collides with his ideas of his place in his family. Upon entering high school, Eddie rediscovers his childhood friend Francesca (Paula Garcés), who becomes a love interest and an essential part of the story. As tensions at home arise for both of them, Eddie seeks liberation through flying. A collision of past, present and future exposes Eddie to who he must be and more importantly, what it means to be loved.

This film fakes a calm and studied look at the dynamics of relationships and the hard times that affect those relationships. One of its main strengths is the care with which it portrays the characters and their outer and inner struggles. Tucci and Garcés in particular stand out in the cast. They play their roles with an honesty that touches the audience directly.

In one interaction between Eddie and Ernesto, the audience can see the understanding that the two men have with each other and the carefully maintained façade that hides their connection from the rest of the world. They use light-hearted humor — and horseplay with gigantic clumps of hurled dirt — to move past a touchy subject, but their communication is revealed to the audience in brief moments of serious conversation.

At times, however, the plot creeps dangerously close to a cliché, using symbols that do no more than garner an unearned emotional response from the audience. Eddie's father's last written words, scribbled on a bloody cloth moments before his death, provide a trite message that carries little substance in the story. After making an appearance shortly after the death, the cloth disappears until a predictable, emotional moment at the end of the film.

The movie has substance, but the director leaves plenty of room for personal reflection. Its appeal spans all audiences, so it's a great film for a relaxed evening when you need a break from work.

Redford and Axinn both spoke at the event, providing the audience with further insight about this enormous undertaking. They shot the movie in a mere 30 days, but the creative process spanned years. As a team, Redford and Axinn created a story so real it makes the audience smile with recognition. Redford has carefully chosen and guided his actors to complete a satisfying portrait of a family struggling with hardships.

The movie has substance, but the director leaves plenty of room for personal reflection. Its appeal spans all audiences, so it's a great film for a relaxed evening when you need a break from work — and from the constant stream of "perfect" love stories that Hollywood brings us.

Courtesy
James Redford screened his new movie "Spin" at Middlebury last weekend.

Literary Picks

by Edward Pickering

Title: "The Name of the Rose"
Author: Umberto Eco
First Publication: 1980

The publication of "The Name of the Rose" catapulted its author, Umberto Eco, into international stardom. An Italian professor of semiotics, Eco had never before tried his hand at fiction. The premise of his novel is simple but sensational — a spate of murders occurs in a wealthy Benedictine abbey in northern Italy. To unravel the mystery the Abbot sends for the Franciscan monk William of Baskerville, an Englishman renowned for his discernment. The novel's narrator, a young German novice named Adso, accompanies brother William as his scribe, disciple and sidekick. The murders continue despite William's presence in the abbey — monks plummet from windows and turn up in vats of congealed pig's blood.

The abbey itself is famed throughout Christendom as a repository of learning. Its unparalleled library is housed in a maze-like building off-limits to all but the librarian. The library contains forbidden books, which prove too seductive to a number of young monks. They transgress the library's time-honored prohibitions, and some of them end up dead.

William pursues the murderer by stringing together clues just as a modern day detective would. But William lives in a medieval world, not the modern world, and his pursuit ultimately draws him into a labyrinth of political and ecclesiastical intrigues. "The Name of the Rose" is much more than a murder mystery. Stunningly erudite, Eco interweaves philosophy, history and religion into his tale. In his search to discover the demon within the abbey, William unveils the presumptions and convictions that govern medieval religious life.

William and Adso decipher the clues of every murder scene, looking for meaning in every sign and symbol. And in a sense, the novel itself is about how meaning is conveyed through signs and symbols. People (especially religiously minded people) in medieval times construed signs and symbols differently than we do today. William and Adso's medieval Europe hovers on the brink of change and will soon be plunged into a more recognizably modern age in which such simple items as William's eyeglasses, to say nothing of beliefs and attitudes, will no longer be viewed incredulously.

Suspicions and later accusations of heresy plague the mountaintop abbey. Like a subterranean river, undercurrents of dissent flow beneath the composed veneer of abbatial life. Amidst this suppressed turbulence, surrounded by deception and hypocrisy, William stands firm, a man of a scientific bent, but more importantly, a man of tolerance. He represents moderation and critical inquiry as opposed to intolerance and superstition.

Though William and Adso resolve the mystery, as all detectives and their sidekicks must, the novel ends catastrophically. "The Name of the Rose" is so thickly layered, so complex, as to belie easy description. Eco has constructed a frighteningly good thriller in which the slow-burning fires of religious orthodoxy and heterodoxy, conservatism and change, cloistered ignorance and the thirst for knowledge, flare into an inferno.

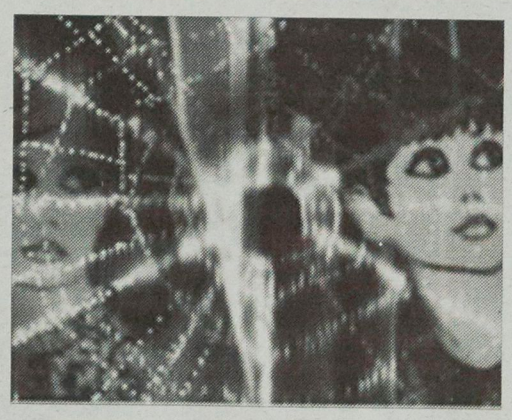
Is It Art? New Breed Goes Digital

By Chris Grosso
Arts Editor

My co-editor Abbie Beane and I love the global artistic community. Our mission has been to infuse your imaginations with some artistic vision. Her original column — Is It Art? — has become a staple of *The Middlebury Campus*. Each week she presents an alternative and minority art form in hopes of inspiring you, our reader, to create. To fill-in for her this week and satiate your creative juices, I have decided to showcase a new artist and do some P.R. for him in the college arena. He is a member of the new, contemporary breed of artists that are rapidly becoming an elite group and are now doing some kick-ass work worldwide.

Our first studio visit is with the 32-year-old Jeremy Blake, who works primarily with digital media. Blake creates dreamlike, looping video artworks, often characterized as "time-based paintings," that combine elements of abstract painting, animation, photography and cinema.

Bill Davenport raves that his work does what abstract paintings always wanted to, but better! Relieved of the weight of history and the clichéd idealism of high art, his videos are the realization of Kandinsky's dreams — tales told in an abstract language of shapes and colors, free to express surreal mysticism, without the mundane literalness of representation. Blake's DVDs for plasma screens, C-prints (original abstract images of fictional settings), paintings and drawings present visual narratives that combine the representational and the abstract. His vocabulary of liquid blobs and blurs, pebbly surfaces and sampled photographs morph to generate an endless techno fantasyland.



Courtesy
Sequence #4 from DVD "Reading Ossie Clark" (2003)

Since completing his M.F.A. at the California Institute of the Arts in 1995, Blake has infused the art scene with his techno-industrialized work. Blake's works typically play with vibrant colors and organic and geometric forms. He instills a sense of neo-modernist design and film-like attitude combining the representational and the abstract.

Blake's most recent DVD, "Reading Ossie Clark," now being exhibited at the Feigen Contemporary Galley in N.Y., collages original film, drawing and still photography with painted and digital elements in a nine minute continuous loop. As a tribute to Swinging London's premier fashion designer Ossie Clark, the DVD presents his career from its prime in the late 60s, when he outfitted and entertained celebrities and socialites around the world, to its sad conclusion in 1996. Blake created animated forms inspired by Clark's colorful, stream-of-consciousness designs and his personal diary entries. With this piece, Blake pays respect to Clark's extraordinary fashion sense,and in the process, paints a dramatic, psychological portrait.

Blake is represented in the collections of several museums worldwide, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. In 2002 he was commissioned to create work for director Paul Thomas Anderson's films "Magnolia," and "Boogie Nights" and "Punch-Drunk Love."

If you ever get the opportunity to turn on a Jeremy Blake "painting," be prepared for a unique transcendental experience that shifts you back and forth between the abstract and a stylized realism. His ambient, slowly moving abstractions will invoke a passive trancelike sensation and stir a pleasant, mild suspense that'll leave you wondering what's coming next.

The Middlebury Campus

IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS.

Associate Editor: Assists editor-in-chief and managing editor in all aspects of newspaper production. Works closely with section editors. Copy-editing and layout skills a must.

Online Editor: Responsible for posting all editorial content on the Web site. Must be comfortable with Web page design and HTML knowledge a plus. Also must be willing to stay in contact with Web site providers. Paid position.

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Please note that assistant editorships are available in all editorial departments.

For more information or to request an electronic application, please contact Devin Zatorski (4814) or Claire Bourne (6353).

Pop Rocks: Britney's Back

Continued from page 15

What goes around comes around.
And the crowds are waiting.
'Cause if we break up
Then we can make up
Shake my booty all night.

The inverse of this song (what "Never Again" was to "Cry Me a River") is the final original song on the album, "Everytime." Brit is most proud of this song because she wrote it herself on the piano.

The song focuses on the pain the 'character' in the song feels when a relationship fails. I suspect Britney would plead the artistic fifth, claiming, "It's just a song!" But, with lyrics like "I may have made it rain [hello, "Cry Me a River"!]. Please forgive me. My weakness caused you pain, and this song is my sorry," it appears that the allegations Justin made are perhaps not so inflammatory after all.

It makes sense, however, that Britney would reserve this song until the end and put "Showdown" in the first three tracks.

First, she doesn't force the fans who like 'Britney the entertainer' to deal with the faux-diva aspirations and maudlin musings of slow songs in the vein of "Dear Diary" and "Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman." She may lyrically express a desire to be out of control, but Britney is nothing less than calculated.

Second, by putting "Showdown" first, she maintains the power in the relationship. The placement of the sadistic, sexy Britney of "Showdown" overwhelms the vulnerable, cathartic girl in "Everytime."

The only other slow song on the album is "Shadow," which is much more enjoyable, a Celine Dion song if Celine couldn't sing, really.

Eastern influences permeate the album. In lieu of Britney's standard cover song, she double-books the Madonna song by giving it a jungle-drum, sitar-infused remix. She also joins forces with R. Kelly on "Outrageous," which is not so much outrageous as insipid. It is the closest track on the album to the old Britney Spears sound, centered on Britney telling everyone how hot and bothered she is in her "sexy jeans" and "about to bring the heat" but succumbing at last to her standard lyrical interlude about being free, finding love and whatnot.

Perhaps in the end, Britney will follow her standard practice and release this song as a remix, which would also make sense given every R. Kelly single for the past two years has been a remix — apparently, he's just not good enough the first time around. And anyone who doesn't immediate perceive the irony of a two-time collaboration between Britney (jailbait) and R. Kelly (jailbird) really has no business reading this review. You are dismissed.

The most successful is "Toxic." Dominated by a shrill violin riff. In this song, not only a slut, she's an addict — addicted to men! The song has a rousing mix of beats, a few nice changes of tempo and even takes the Britney voice to a distinctly Taylor Dayne-esque place. Oh, the wonders of producers' flourishes.

Britney even gets in a little reggae in "The Hook Up," but I suspect it is only because she has to. What would any hit album be without a little *patois*?

Sandwiched firmly between these two tracks is Britney's ode to self-love, "Touch of My Hand." The song is lost enough in the middle of the album's 13-song tribute to heterosexual, hedonist promiscuity to not make much of a dent, but for those of us who simultaneously love and hate Britney's reflexive cleavage-emphasizing, beck-and-call-girl image, this brief departure into no-man's land is a welcome break.

The song is absorbingly sexy, much in the same way that Sting's "Fields of Gold" was when it came out. Wait, did I just compare Britney Spears to Sting? I have to stop doing that!

If Britney flying solo isn't to your liking (like say, if you're a man who doesn't have *any* imagination or, at the very least, a functioning hand), then the pre-orgasmic club tune "Breathe on Me" will rev your engine just fine. The beat is throbbing, just like Britney. This song, which stands proud as the album's fourth track, boasts the oft-quoted line, "It's so hot, and I need some air. Don't stop 'cause I'm halfway there." Like many of the songs on the album, Britney's new, unfettered sexuality (which was undeniably present on the last few albums but covered by strategic orchestration) is a bit discomfiting, but the straightforward rhythm eventually overwhelms the panting and sighing.

But, as Britney has learned time and again, all this party-hearty-ing comes with a price, and that price is a collaboration with Moby — "Early Mornin'".

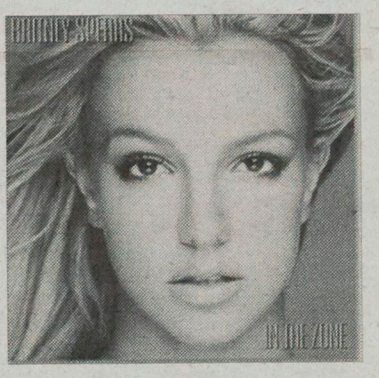
In what Brit said was her favorite song in a recent *Rolling Stone* (though she couldn't be bothered to actually know the title of the song), Brit describes the hangover that results from her many wild nights out on the town. One of the many songs that Britney co-wrote, this joint to include such feats of lyrical genius as "Got on the dance floor. Hooked up with a guy named Joe. When the music was fast and slow, what happened next? Guess… but you don't wanna know."

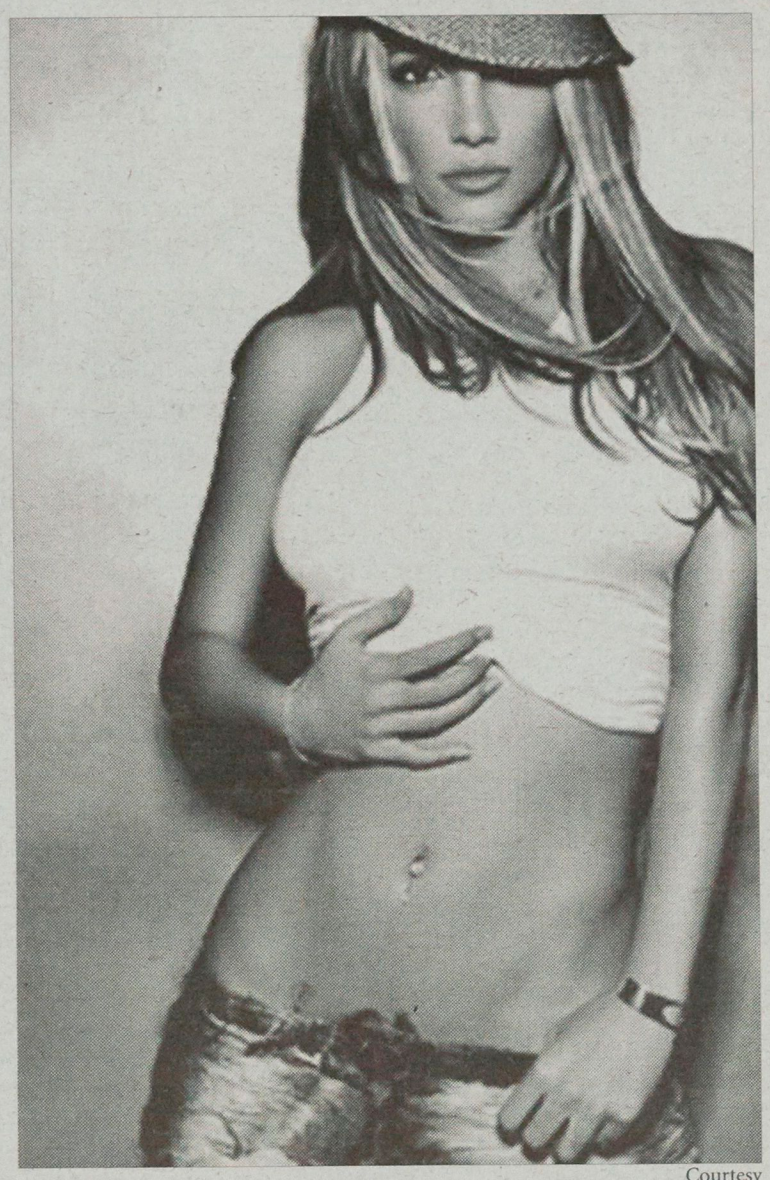
And what will happen next for Britney now that her album and her new persona has been laid down for public worship or repudiation?

The one thing working against her is the undecided style or voice that characterizes the album. Unlike her role model-slash-lesbian lover du jour, Madonna, Britney is clearly a product ready for consumption. Other than her occasion co-writing trysts, she doesn't give the impression that she has much creative input as to her musical direction. This also gives Justin the one-up because his smooth R&B style is cohesive throughout "Justified."

However, I know that she's a "Brave New Girl" (track 11), and I would wager that she ultimately can declare this album a work-in-progress to finding her 'true self'. She can use the five or six singles from this album to gauge where the public is going and, thus, where she should go to reap maximum profit from minimum personal investment.

That feisty Louisiana lassie has already managed to swindle pseudo-intellectuals like me to want to throw down $20 for this album even though I realize she's a despicable person in reality, so I'd say the path to world domination is pretty clear.





Courtesy

Britney Spears returns with "In the Zone."

Equestrian Riding into Spotlight

Club Sport Enters Middlebury's Radar Screen

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

Middlebury College has an equestrian team. Few people know about it, even fewer are actually on it, but those that are, do not ask for much publicity, but instead go about doing something that they love dearly, riding horses. Despite remaining a club sport, the riders regularly competing against schools that field varsity and junior varsity teams. While Mercy Trent '06 would rather be riding a horse than doing anything else, she commented, "We don't get a P.E. credit for being on the riding team. It's ridiculous, especially as one of the P.E classes is riding lessons." In all likelihood, it will not be too long before this oversight is corrected, but for now, it doesn't seem to be dulling the enthusiasm of the riders whatsoever.

During both the fall and the spring, Middlebury attends three or four shows, along with schools like Dartmouth, Colby-Sawyer, the University of New Hampshire, the University of Vermont and Mount Ida. Although each show is a team competition, there is a lot of emphasis on the individual as each rider has the opportunity to compete in large-scale shows even if the school does not send a team.

In each show, there are two classes — jumping and flat riding. In the morning, each rider will randomly draw a horse with which to perform the first part of the competition. One of the more advanced riders, Caroline Stauffer '06 noted, "Intercollegiate horse shows are unique because competitors ride a horse that they have never seen before, and don't even have a chance to warm up as they would in a regular competition. This means that there's a good deal of luck involved, and you have to hope you draw a good horse."

The competition is broken down into three divisions — open (for the experts), intermediate and novice, as determined by riding ability and previous show experience. Then, within each division there are usually sections to further divide the riders. Typically, between eight and 12 riders may be in each section with the judges responsible for ranking the top six. In the flat riding division, all the equestrians in each section parade around together, following a standard routine. They then have the chance to compete in the jumping section, consisting of jumping eight fences individually, one after the other. A rider may not compete in the jumping division unless they have done the flat walk.

In the flat riding, the judges are looking for the appearance and demeanor of the rider on the horse as well as their perceived control of the horse and the effectiveness of the instructions given out. A rider should be sitting straight, with their heels down, in control of the horse, poised, calm and composed. They should give good, clear aids to the horse and maintain control at all times. In the jumping division, the riders are judged on their ability to complete the course, the ability to control the horse, and of course, the look of the rider. Should the horse act up though and provide problems for the rider, the stewards at the show may decide to offer a re-ride to an equestrian if they deem the problems to be unrelated to the performance of the rider. However, if the rider is viewed as being at fault, there will be no re-ride and the score of the equestrian will suffer accordingly. This is, of course, a very subjective decision, but it is one that adds to the charm of such an event.

As a school, Middlebury does extremely well with almost every rider usually placing in the top six of each section in which they compete. With each rider able to compete in both the flat walking and the riding, this is no mean feat. Trent, one of the most naturally gifted members of the team commented, "We're a small team and so we can't fill all the classes. That means we don't get enough points to ever come close to winning, especially as some of the other schools have their equestrian teams in Varsity standing."

Despite this, Middlebury always places well, with several excellent personal performances at each show. With more shows coming up in the spring, Middlebury may have the opportunity to host one, thus increasing the visibility of the team across campus. For now though, the team is composed of the few who simply love to be walking, trotting, cantering and galloping upon their gallant horses.

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Shooter's Touch

Schuyler Van Horn

From downtown, *Alexis Batten '04 practices her long range jumper. The women's basketball team opens its season this weekend.*

Women Runners Triumph

Continued from page 28

of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Aldrichowever, believes his team is where it needs to be. "I put high expectations on the team to start with," he said. "But they are running better than I thought they would." The older members of the squad have no shortage of experience, with some like Yazwinski set to make their fourth visit to Nationals. After winning the title in 2000 and 2001 Middlebury came up short last year, finishing 2nd to Williams. The squad will be relying on new blood like Giddings and Archard to help them win back their rightful crown. "That's the beauty of our three fearless freshmen. They're not intimidated at all by any competition," said Aldrich. Two-time champ Yazwinski looked at how her crew shaped up to her past championship squads. "This team is the most relaxed team. Everyone's out to have fun," she said. "This team has as good a chance as any of the others." On Saturday they will see for sure how they stack up to their past.

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Men's Hockey Ready to Dominate with Beaney Back

By Andreas Apostolatos
Sports Editor

As the perennially dominant Middlebury men's hockey team awaits the opening bell for its 2003-2004 campaign, it seems a common trend that returning forces will be pivotal to the program's success this year. Among the many players coming back from the 2002-2003 roster is the offensive magician Kevin Cooper '04, who was named a first team All-American for his superb play last season. Then there is senior team captain John Dawson, or sophomore Tim Schneider, who as a first-year was second on the team in goal scoring.

However, the most valuable comback will be none other than that made by head coach Bill Beaney, who is back in his 15th year after sitting out the 2002-2003 season.

Last year, Middlebury was under the leadership of Neil Sinclair, who had previously been an assistant coach under Beaney. He led the team to a overall 22-5-2 record and the NCAA semifinals in his head coaching stint.

"I'm excited to be back, but that doesn't mean I'll be accepting any offers to be president [of the college]," joked Beaney, who is an astonishing 305-96-19 in his 14 seasons as head coach.

Middlebury returns all but two players — Rob Chisholm '03 and Aaron Copeland '03 — to the roster this season. In addition, six first-years join the team, as well as senior Mike Kennedy, who played at the junior varsity level last year.

"I think that what we've got right here is a number of returning players coming back in great condition, and the addition of freshmen that will improve our overall skill. We've got great leadership with [captain] John Dawson and [assistant captain] Kevin Cooper. Things are very solid across the board, we've just got to go out and play a game," Beaney added.

Middlebury has traditionally emphasized defense as it's primary objective, but new this season is a slight strategic alteration, which will make one of the three defensemen on each line significantly more offense-oriented. While the change should by no means be viewed as an exchange of defense for goal scoring, the Panthers hope to simply get more goals in at the same time.

"It's essentially the same defensive system with just a little bit of a change to give us that extra guy to help us down low on the offensive end as an extra scoring threat," noted Cooper.

Cooper, an offensive wizard who needs but 16 goals to become Middlebury's all-time leading scorer, will undoubtedly anchor the team's scoring attack as he did last season. Behind him will be talented forwards Tim Graham '05 and Schneider. On defensive, the Panther's will look to senior Mike Velez, Jeff Smith '05 and Patrick Nugent '05, a versatile defensemen who notched eight goals and 17 assists last season. In goal, it is very likely that Yen-I Chen '06 will start for his second season in a row, after posting a highly respectable .905 save percentage in his rookie year.

Besides the challenges posed by tough opponents like Norwich, or NESCAC rival Trinity, the Panthers cohesion as a team is the primary goal in the early stages of the season. The Middlebury men are well aware that the tiring 30-plus game season will only flow as comfortably as the atmosphere among the team's individual parts.

"[Our biggest challenge will be] coming together as a group, and making this a team where we respect and trust each other," explained Cooper, who posted 26 goals and 15 assists in 28 games last season and was named a first team All-American in addition to NESCAC first team and player of the year accolades. "Everyone on the team needs to be able to look at the guy sitting next to him and know that he'll take a bullet for you, or block a shot for you. Whether or not that makes us win the championship or not is irrelevant."

Middlebury commences this Saturday on the road against Skidmore in a 3p.m. matinee.

File Photo/Kathrin Schwesinger
The men's hockey team travels to Saratoga Springs, N.Y., this Saturday for its 2003-2004 season opener vs. Skidmore.

College Cricket Club Moves Indoors

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

Cricket. All too often that word carries connotations of a boring, slow paced, silly English game. While it is slow, it is inherently English and can at times be intensely boring, it remains a game played by a huge percentage of the world population, and Middlebury College has a team, too.

Due to a shortage of other cricketing institutions, last year the Middlebury Cricket Club played four games during its season. After two games against the local Chittenden County Cricket Club and two against the Dartmouth Cricket Club, Middlebury ended the season with a 2-2 record. This season has seen Middlebury play and lose one game, but team spirits remain high and there is optimism for the upcoming cricket season. The Middlebury team is characterized by the flair of certain players including Wasil Mohar '06 who bowls with pace and accuracy as well as being lethal with the bat when he gets in the groove. Khurrum Jamali '04 is renowned for his attacking style of play that more often that not pays off immensely, resulting in hordes of runs in very few overs. John Taft-Dick '04 has returned from a semester in Florence, Italy, and the team is excited about the beautiful stroke-making and timing that he brings to the offensive side of the game. Siddharth Rajaram '06 is another player who has been earmarked for great things this coming season as he looks to pick up where he left off last year with the bat. On the team as a whole, he noted, "We're an experienced bunch this season and we're about as good as we have ever been. Up to this point we have not performed well, but we're confident that we'll get better as the season goes on."

While it is a game traditionally played outdoors, the Middlebury team takes things inside and practices in the Bubble throughout the winter. Some of the experienced members of the team are going to run a workshop during Winter Term so that the current members of the team can continue to play, but also so that new recruits or simply curious students can learn to play and understand the rules of this crazy game. Last year, P.E credit was offered for those students who regularly attended the practices, and Tim Bellis '06, who did so, commented "It was good to experience a sport from a different culture, one that I would not usually be exposed to here in the U.S." With this sort of positive feedback, the clinic this coming January is sure to be a success, educating more of the student body about a game with which they may not be familiar.

The coming of the spring will herald the recurrence of matches being held outside again. Until then, the team is confined to batting, bowling and fielding practice in the nets inside the Bubble. Hopefully, with the hard work, sweat, toil and effort put in during the off-season, the result will bear the fruit that it promises such that the Middlebury cricket team reaches the level of potential that the players know is possible.

Schuyler VanHorn
The women's squash team has five new additions to its roster this season. The Panther's translate this infusion of new talent into a successful campaign.

Squash Women Turn to Rookies

By Ryan Reese
Staff Writer

> We're looking forward to the upcoming season and we're hoping to improve in certain areas of our game while winning more matches and performing well on a national level.
> — Holly Haertel '05

The winter is now upon us and, among other things, it brings to us a brand new slate of sports. One of these new cold-weather games is women's squash. Contrary to popular belief, this sport does not include acorns, gourds or any affiliation with the mushy vegetable that is commonplace on fall buffet tables. This highly energized and aerobic sport combines graceful strides and lunges, crushing volleys, strategic shot placement, and reflex times that can be measured in nanoseconds.

All of these skills are second nature to our Middlebury squad. Their collective mastery of this intense game has lead to their increasing success over the past years, culminating in a 16th place finish nationally last year. This year's team looks to expound on their success from years past and improve its record while earning a higher national ranking. Holly Haertel '05, the squad's number one player last year, said, "We're looking forward to the upcoming season, and we're hoping to improve in certain areas of our game while winning more matches and performing well on a national level." Under the leadership of senior captains Liza Franyo and Britt Cosgrove, Middlebury's squad looks to prepare itself for their always fierce NESCAC rivalries against Colby, Williams and Amherst.

Haertel also spoke on the bright prospect of the most solid team that she has ever been apart of while at Middlebury. When absent team members Lauren Smith '05, Beth Sealey '05 and Amanda Knappman '04 return next semester, there promises to be an unparalleled level of success. New up-and-comers Hannah Baker '07, Katherine Hawkins '06.5, Kate Horvitz '06.5 and Kara Zarchin '06.5 will all look to contribute and help solidify the team's future by gaining much needed experience at this difficult level of intercollegiate athletic competition.

This is only the second year in which the squash team has been able to use the college's new regulation-size squash courts. This is obviously advantageous to be able to play on the courts with the correct and specified dimensions. This has lead to far more productive practices and better results in competitive situations. Although Middlebury boasts state-of-the-art facilities, there will only be one home match this year. The Panther women will face the tough Vassar racketeers on February 8 in the Bubble.

Through hard work and dedicated preparation, the women of Middlebury look to keep opponents guessing on shot placement, force them to remain in a quandary while permanently stationed the back corners of the court and attack with a series of crushing shots that scream along the walls and high lob shots that will throw off opponents timing. The upcoming season promises the success and high level achievement that has become expected and quite commonplace across the aggregate of Middlebury athletics. The women's squash team will be no exception.

Track Set to Maintain Momentum

By David Lindholm
Senior Staff Writer

With trackers having to qualify for each of the Championships, the winter season gives the team a chance to showcase some of its top performers, as well as get the team ready for the spring.

The Middlebury Indoor Track and Field team is looking forward to another season of Bubble training, road trips, and some standout individual performances. While the athletes have already started training, the team's first competition does not come until January 11, when the team heads to Hanover for the Dartmouth Relays.

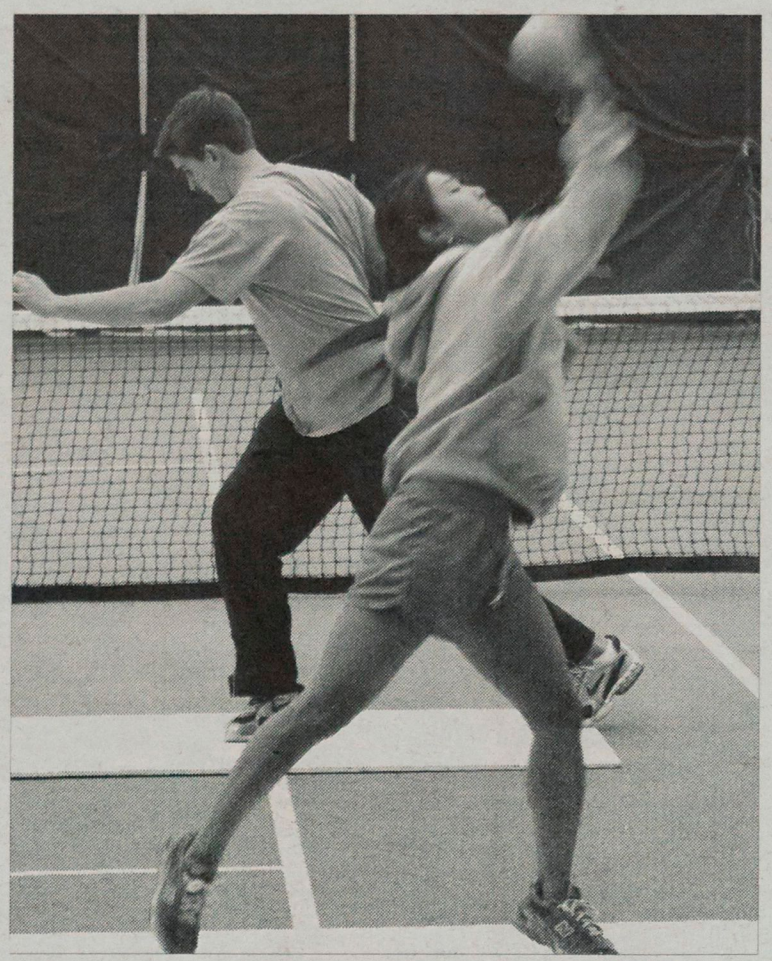
Both the men and women are coming off successful indoor seasons, as last year's team set many Middlebury records. The men are led by senior captains Tony Garofano, Craig Pittman and Mike De Leo, and the women's captains are Maryanne Porter, Jess Kosciewicz and Margery Glover.

Last winter, the women set four school records, with Porter setting the mark in the 600m run, and three relay teams (the 4x200m, 4x400m and the distance medley relay) also set top times. The men set a stunning total of seven records last year, with Kevin Bright '06 earning the records in the 400m, the 600m and the long jump. Bright was also a member of the 4x200 relay team that set a Middlebury mark. The team will definitely look to use newcomers and an established old guard to challenge the marks set last year and further in the past, as well as test the competition around the country.

The team has five meets around New England, New York and Canada in January and February before beginning its Championships: on February 21, the Division III New England Championships will be held, with the men heading to Bowdoin and the women traveling to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Boston will host another meet as the Open New England Championships take place a week later at Boston University. On March 5-6, Bowdoin is the site of another meet, the E.C.A.C. Championships. The last meet of the year is the NCAA Championships at the University of Wisconsin.

With trackers having to qualify for each of the Championships, the winter season gives the team a chance to showcase some of its top performers, as well as get the team ready for the grueling spring season.

During March vacation the track and field team will head off campus for some training in a more temperate climate, and the winter provides a solid base on which to build a strong spring. In its 14th season, indoor track continues to grow stronger, and the team, with Coach Martin Beatty at the helm, hopes for another successful season in 2004.



Schuyler Van Horn

Practice has begun for the indoor track team with both male and female athletes looking to get in shape before the meets later in the season.

Alpine Team Replete with Talent

By Sean Breen
Staff Writer

While winter has yet to make its mark on Middlebury's campus, the alpine ski team's preparation for the 2003-2004 season is well underway. The Middlebury Snow Bowl does not open until Friday, Dec. 5, but Killington Mountain is already open, with hundreds of skiers and boarders packing the slopes last weekend.

The Middlebury alpine team has been training for months for the approaching season. Workouts have ranged from strength training, circuits, sprints, trail runs and hikes to biking, intervals, flexibility drills, roller skiing, soccer and speedball. The first on-snow training commences with a five-day camp over Thanksgiving Break at Sugarloaf/USA resort in Maine.

The Alpine Team is one of Middlebury's only Division I sports. Its top six men and six women compete in the "carnival" intercollegiate events, while the remaining members compete in USSA and FIS sanctioned events. Middlebury's skiers compete all the way up to an international level, with several skiers having been selected for the last four Olympic Teams.

The dynasty is sure to continue under new coach Forest Carey. Carey graduated from Middlebury in 2000 and acted as assistant coach two years ago. He was also a member of the U.S. Ski Team from 1993 to 1997. "I am honored and happy to be coming back to Middlebury to try to continue the great success and tradition of the Middlebury ski program," commented Carey about returning to Middlebury.

The team has all it's skiers returning from last year, and expectations are already high. The men's team will be led by 2003 All Americans Eric Rygg '04 and David Coriell '06. John Rusten '05 is also a member of the team to watch, having won the University of New Hampshire Carnival slalom event last year, and finishing a member of the All-East team.

The team is packed with talent and there should be strong competition to make the carnival team. Last year the carnival team consisted of Fred Emich '04, Peter Phillips '05, Josh Transue '06, Rusten, Rygg and Coriell. All six skiers had top 10 finishes in 2003. This year competition will be higher as brothers Andrew '06 and Will '05 McConathy, along with Andy Peters '04, Jon Schaefer '04 and Derek Shields '05 push for the carnival team.

Going into the season, Dave Coriell is ranked 30th on the USSA Giant Slalom National points list, and 67th on the Slalom list. Rygg is 45th in Slalom and 51st in Giant Slalom. Rusten in 37th in Slalom and 41st in Giant Slalom.

The women's team, led by senior Laura Scripture, is also very competitive. She will be backed by a strong team that includes three other seniors, Missy Krempa '04, Brie Pike-Sprenger '04 and Nina Porcelli '04. The competition within the team for the six carnival spots should also be tight.

Last year, Middlebury's best finish was second at the Middlebury Invitational, but the team also posted 3rd at the Dartmouth and UNH Carnivals. While last year was a strong one overall, the team has even higher hopes for the coming season.

"If we ski up to our potential," commented Coriell, "there is no reason why we can't be the best team in the East." While the spring is far off, the team can't help but think about NCAA's in March, held this year in Lake Tahoe, Calif. The team is stronger than ever, it is physically and mentally ready for the season, and it is ready to show the nation what Middlebury is made of. The first carnival race, the St. Lawrence Carnival, will take place Jan. 18th and 19th in Ottawa, Canada.

Courtesy

The alpine team returns its entire roster from last season, and should prove to be one of the East's elite teams.

Swim Prepares for Amherst

Continued from page 28

town native Barbara Van der Veer '07, who have already been proving themselves in races against the older women, are stand-outs.

Looming large over the women's early competition, however, is the suspension of all upperclassmen for the first two meets of the year. The suspension stems from a first-year initiation-related hazing incident that occurred last January. While the team and school have tried to keep the incident private, it was hard not to notice a certain tenseness in the team at the end of their season. After extensive deliberations with the administration, the squad accepted the consequences of the incident, which prohibit the upperclass swimmers from racing in last week's scrimmage and this week's Springfield/Wesleyan meet. The full team will be allowed to participate in the crucial Amherst meet on Dec. 6. "It's hard because it separates the team," said co-captain Kellianne Egan '04. "It's hard to deal with being a senior and not being able to swim in your first two meets." However, the team, which also had to attend a hazing seminar as part of its mandated penalty, has chosen to look at the suspensions in a positive light. "It could have had some negative repercussions, but it has made us closer and brought together older and younger swimmers," said Egan. The squad has made it clear to its younger players that last year's incident is in the past, and instead of lamenting the lack of upperclass leadership, the sophomores are taking the opportunity to lead through their performances in the pool. The new and less experienced rookies have a valuable chance to learn as much as they can of game-time execution and accomplishment.

Plus, since the older members of the team will join the young bloods before their first big meet of the season against Amherst, the loss will be relatively insignificant. Still, the women realize that there is some work to be done to rehabilitate their image. "There's definately a motivation to prove to ourselves and the school that we're a team so that they understand that we're very proud of our team and of what we can accomplish," said Egan.

Field Hockey into Semis

Continued from page 28

mous hat-trick before some of the fans had even retaken their seats. The visitors tried to mount an offensive effort but the resilient Panther defense was not about to let them through again. With constant exploitation of the wings intermixed with pinpoint through balls, Middlebury always looked likely to score again as Rowan desperately pushed for a goal. The rout was complete when Keely Murphy '04 scored a fifth goal for Middlebury after an assist from Ashley Pullen '05 with 6:42 on the clock. There would be no more scoring in the contest as time wound down, sending Middlebury to the Final Four next weekend.

On the mood within the Middlebury camp, Brakeley commented, "It's just so great because winning is so new to us. We're really pumped about being where we are." If she stops to look, she'll notice that her team is two wins away from a perfect season and national championship. To finish the job though, the Panthers will need to defeat Cortland State on Friday and then either Salisbury or The College of New Jersey on Saturday. Confidence is high through the Middlebury team as Williams actually out shot Cortland State in their previous meeting. The Panthers beat the Ephs twice this year. The games will be on grass though, which will require a quick transition. Middlebury has done it before though, and they will do it again. This Panther team has set a new school record with 18 consecutive victories, has been able to eek out nine wins by one goal, while dismantling other teams home and away, has maintained one of the best defenses in the country and on top of all this, now has the chance to bring home a national championship. They're two wins away from realizing the ultimate dream and no one could deny that should it happen to this team, this year. It would be a fitting end to a fairy-tale season.

Hockey Women Poised for NESCAC Defense

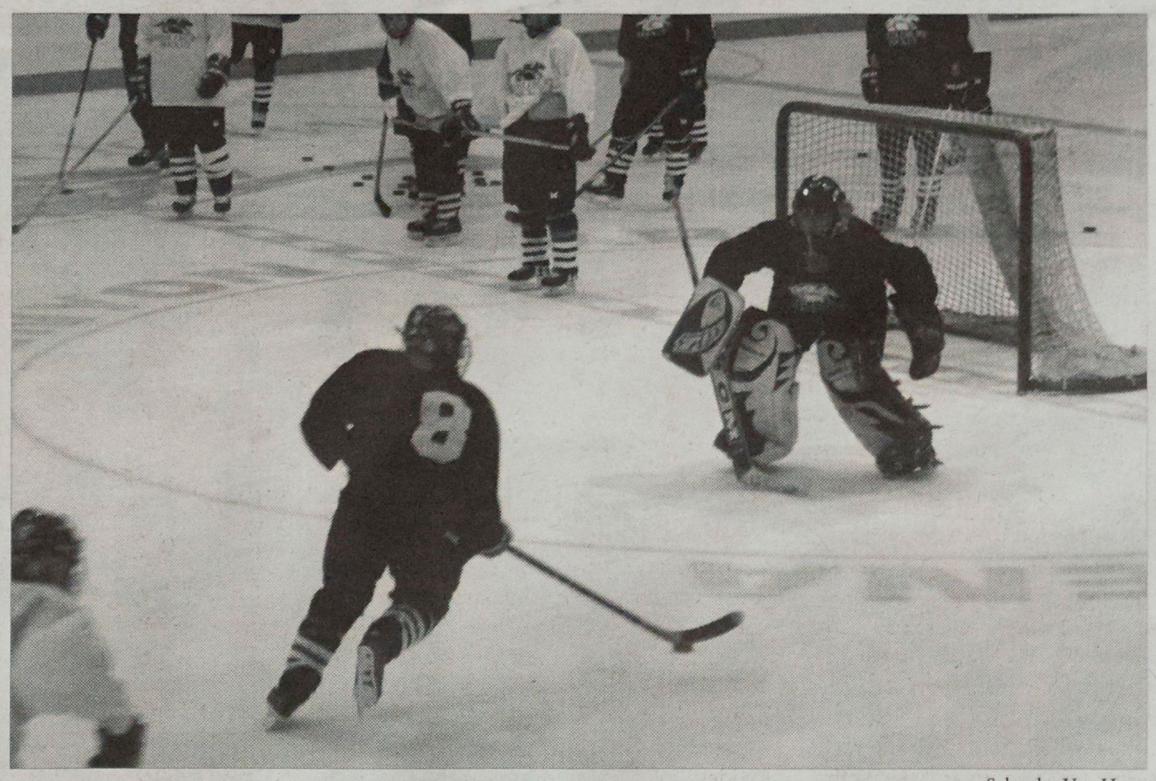
By Mike Kennedy
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's ice hockey team begins its season this Friday night expecting to contend for both the NESCAC and national crowns. Coming off an impressive 19-3-4 mark of last season, which included the NESCAC title, the Panthers look to improve upon that and reclaim the NCAA title they last held in 2001. Coach Bill Mandigo enters his 16th season behind the bench and will rely on a mix of experienced veterans and a talented group of newcomers to lead this year's team.

In the goal the Panthers possess possibly the best tandem in the league, as they return both Kati Madouros '04 and Kate Kogut '06, who split action for the majority of last season. Madouros has a career goals against average of under one, and Kogut did not lose a game in her first year between the pipes, so the Panthers will undoubtedly be strong in the net.

On the backline Middlebury will be led by senior assistant captain Heather Wende, who will be counted on to anchor the Panther defense. Jackie Cohen '05 and Rose Babst '06 are experienced bluliners who also expect to log serious ice time this season. Ali Liati '05, Jen Yerigan '06 and Gloria Velez '06, along with a group of first-years, look to round out the Panther defense.

Senior Captain Jean Butler leads the Panther attack up front, as she and five others return having scored at least 19 points last season. With last year's National Player of the Year Angela Kapus '03 gone to graduation, the returnees will be forced to increase their production. Lorna Gifis '05, who racked up 30 points a year ago, and Kristen Reid '04, who banged in 14 goals, will be relied upon to generate the scoring. A talented trio of sophomores is returning this year with Emily Quizon, Hannah DeLong and Liz Yale-Loehr, all of whom had solid first-year campaigns. This year's first-year class also looks to contribute, as they have impressed throughout the pre-season.



Schuyler Van Horn
Ali Liati '05 practices her breakaway skills during practice. The Panthers open against Bowdoin on Friday, Nov. 21.

The Panthers open their season with none other than NESCAC rivals Bowdoin and Colby this weekend at the Chip Kenyon '85 Arena, which will provide them with a serious challenge this early in the year. The Panthers beat Bowdoin to capture the NESCAC title last year, but were ousted by the same Polar Bear team one week later in the national quarterfinals. The team is excited about the challenge. "Bowdoin is always a tough test for us, so it will be nice to open against them and see where we are as a team. We'll just want to make sure that we come out focused and ready to go this weekend," commented Butler. Other key matchups this season include two games with Williams and one with Elmira, last year's national champion. If the Panthers can come out of those games with their record intact, it promises to be a very successful season for the Middlebury women's hockey team.

Veteran Core Hopes to Propel Men's Hoops

By Dan Russell
Staff Writer

The Middlebury College men's basketball team came off its best season in recent memory last year, going 15-10 and qualifying for the NESCAC tournament, narrowly losing out to Tufts University in the first round. While departed senior Eric Bundonis's leadership, size and scoring will undoubtedly be missed, the Panthers return with virtually the same team intact and will likely be a much better team this year. The Panthers are one of the most senior-laden teams in the NESCAC, returning six fourth-year players, joined by five juniors. Coach Jeff Brown returns for his sixth season and is joined by assistant coach Ed Agard. Seniors David Coratti '04 and Nate Anderson '04 will share captain duties this year.

As always, the team will have a fast-paced, high-octane, high-scoring unit who will rely on their superior conditioning and depth to propel them through the season. Last season, minutes were nearly equally distributed, with no player averaging more than 26 minutes a game and with nearly every player seeing a considerable amount of playing time. The team is fluid, multifaceted and streamlined with a number of players who can be plugged into the four, three, two and sometimes even the one-spot. The point guard duties will be shared by seniors John Verzosa '04 and Koby Altman '04, who combined for 140 assists last year. Shooting guard/small forward David Coratti '04, who contributed 67 assists last season, will also help pick up the slack at the one spot.

Schuyler Van Horn
The men's basketball team practices in Pepin gymnasium in preparation for Friday's opener vs. Mount St. Mary's in the Cardinal Classic at Plattsburgh.

> Our goal this year has to be to win a championship. There is no excuse for not getting it done this season.
>
> — Co-captain David Coratti '04

They are a selfless team that distributes the ball evenly, and in which every player could conceivably step up and have a strong night statistically. They also have good size up the middle this year, with freshman Bobby Marcoux 6'7" joining 6'5" Anderson, senior Chris Matthiesen 6'7", and 6'8" Clark Read '05. Anderson will be the go-to player on offense this year and will attempt to improve on an exceptional season last year, in which he averaged 16.9 ppg earning him second team All-NESCAC honors. If they wish to succeed, however, they can't expect to simply run teams off the floor as they attempted to do last year. Although the team shot 42 percent and scored the most points (2,129) in school history, they also allowed their opponents to shoot an equal percentage and surrendered 1,994 points. They will need to reinforce their defense, especially in attacking the defensive boards. If they can contain teams defensively and remain healthy, the team is poised to have a breakout year and emerge as a top-three team in the NESCAC

They will be tested early in the Cardinal Classic tournament held at Plattsburgh State, against a talented Mount St. Mary's team. They will have some time, however, to make necessary adjustments and recover from some nagging injuries before they play their first NESCAC game, against Hamilton on December 4th.

Captain Coratti, commenting on the team's prospects this year, said, "We had a very successful year last year, including setting the school record for total points, but we suffered from inconsistency. We need to set the tempo early this season and make a name for ourselves. As always, we have a good, fast-paced, up-tempo team, we're pretty deep, we have good size up the middle, and we have steady senior leadership. We should continue to shoot the ball well from the outside, but we need to make a commitment on defense and win the rebounding battle. This is our year, the culmination of our careers. Our goal this year has to be to win a championship. There is no excuse for not getting it done this season." Obviously there are high expectations for the men's basketball team this year and it will be up to the players to deliver when it counts. The coaching staff can only do so much because at the end of the day it will be the players out on the court who will ultimately decide the direction and success of the season.

Men's Squash Opens on High Note

By David Lindholm
Senior Staff Writer

The Middlebury Men's Squash Club began its 2003-2004 season with a good showing in its first weekend, winning twice and dropping one match at Colgate University.

The team left on Friday afternoon and barely made it to Hamilton, N.Y., after a blizzard and faulty directions left the team silent in the cramped van as senior captain Mike Gillim valiantly kept the vehicle from sliding off a back road in upstate New York. After the long, arduous drive, the team piled out of the van and almost immediately began its match against Colgate.

The match began well, with several members of the team pulling off quick victories against outmatched Colgate opponents. First-year players Chris Ingram and Jake Harper each won their matches at positions seven and eight, and Andrew Giordano '04 took his match at number six.

David Lindholm '05 won in straight sets at four, as did number three Kris Sukanich '05, who worked his opponent so much that the Colgate was forced to leave the court late in the second game to go outside and vomit.

Gillim's match was the last to finish, and the entire Middlebury team watched intently as it went to the fifth game, since many thought the score of the matches was at four-four, and the outcome of Gillim's contest would determine the winner of the match. Gillim pulled out a great victory, and much to the surprise of many members of the team, Middlebury won 6-3.

The next morning the Panthers took on Hamilton College at Colgate. The Continentals sent out a very strong squad, and beat the Panthers 7-2, with Lindholm and Harper taking the only two matches for the Panthers. Sophomore Alex Nadas '06 played very well at number one against an excellent player.

Later on Saturday, Middlebury once again took on Colgate, who filled in for a Bard College squad that had cancelled earlier in the week. The Panthers shifted their lineup so that each player was playing somebody new, and the new order benefited Middlebury as the Panthers came out with a powerful 8-1 victory. The highlight of the weekend came when Jeff Wieland '05.5, normally Middlebury's number two player, faced off against Colgate's number one. Wieland started off well, taking the first game off a stunned Colgate player. As the match continued, Wieland only got stronger, and in the end defeated a great player 3-0 as the entire team looked on.

Middlebury, the only NESCAC school for which men's squash is not a varsity sport, may move up from its 32nd in the nation ranking after the commanding victories over Colgate, ranked 35th in the preseason poll. Hamilton was ranked 26th in the country. Next up for the Panthers is a match against Dartmouth on Thursday, which is the last match until January for Middlebury.

MEN'S SPORTS THIS WEEK	
Basketball vs Mount St. Mary's	Nov. 21
Cross Country @ NCAA Fnls.	Nov. 22
Swimming/Diving vs Springfield	Nov. 22

The Campus Sports

WOMEN'S SPORTS THIS WEEK	
Field Hockey @ Final Four	Nov. 21
Hockey vs Bowdoin	Nov. 21
Cross Country @ NCAA Fnls	Nov. 22

Women Runners Crowned N.E. Champs

By Peter Yordán
Sports Editor

On the cusp of greatness once again, Middlebury's women's cross country dynasty will seek to further burden their overflowing trophy case when the team attempts to garner its third national championship in the last four years this weekend. The team earned its plane tickets to Indiana after a resounding 26-point victory last weekend in the New England Regionals and will now look to fulfill the promise of it's number-one national ranking by winning the NCAA Championship.

The distinguished team is no stranger to big pressure situations, having won the prestigious NESCAC crown in early November before turning its sites to the New England Regional Championship in Maine last Saturday. Once again the Panthers wasted no time leaving their competition to stare helplessly at the heels of their sneakers. "The New England region is generally agreed to be the strongest region in the nation," said Coach Terry Aldrich. "For us to win by 26 points is a huge confidence booster going into nationals." With their typical verve and alacrity the Middlebury-led pack of five blew by its illustrious competition to hoard five spots in the top 20. Team number one Jess Manzer '05 led the way with a powerful forth place finish, while veteran co-captain Molly Yazwinski '04 finished side-by-side with her first-year teammate Erin Archard in the eight and nine spots. Another star rookie, Andrea Giddings '07, came in seven seconds later to snatch 13th place. Marisa Cawley '05 hammered home the victory right after that with 17th place to give Middlebury a deserved first place and a shot at the national title. "I think we're pretty confident," said Yazwinski. "If that was the hardest part having won that gives us momentum."

The team knows it made a strong declaration of its intentions for this weekend's race at Hanover College in Indiana by performing so well in the tough New England finale. "It makes it not as intimidating as it could be having the toughest competition out of the way already," said Cawley.

The Panthers recognize that they can't let up, however, as every one of the best teams from around the country will be gunning to take down the queen bees of Division III running. "Our coach always tells us there are a lot of teams who are aiming to get Midd," said Cawley. "Anyone can bring out an amazing race. It's scary because we haven't run against tons of these teams." While everyone in Indiana will know about two-time champion Middlebury and its number-one ranking, the Panthers know little about such teams as number-three-ranked University

See Women, page 24

Field Hockey Powers into Final Four at 18-0

Albert Bitici

Ashley Lyddane '06 gives nothing away as she thwarts another offensive effort from Rowan during the Panthers' NCAA quarterfinal win last Sunday.

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

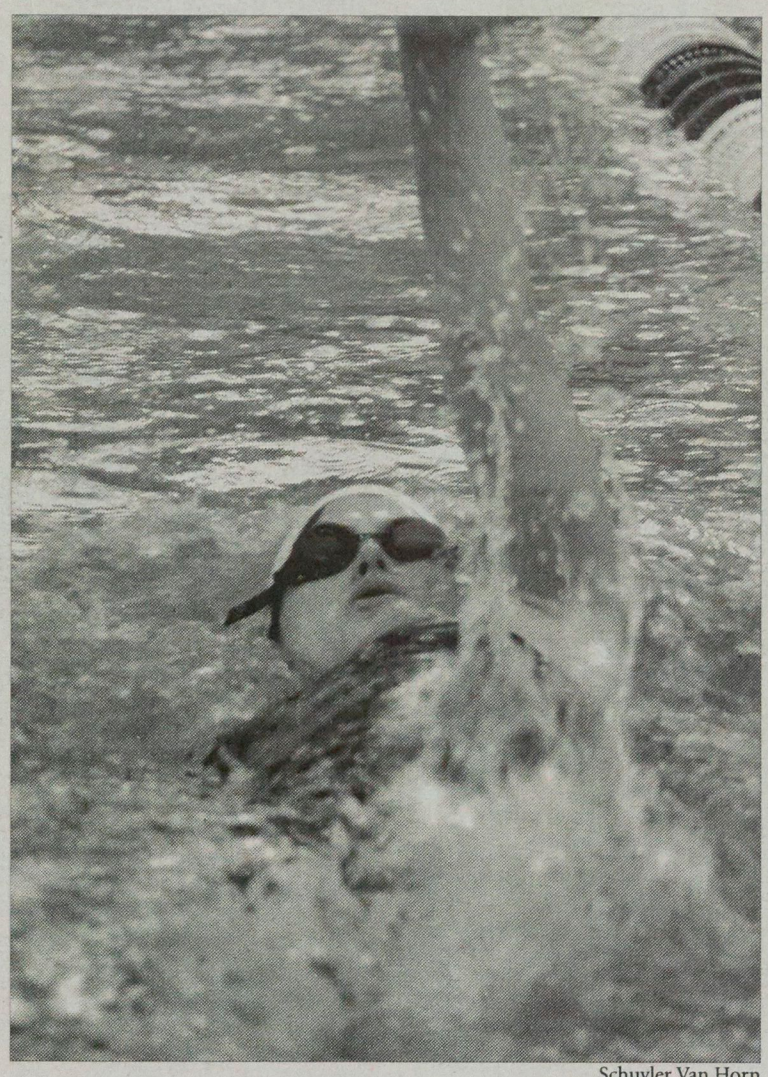
The Middlebury women's field hockey team is going to the Final Four of the National Championships in Pennsylvania next weekend. Montclair, and then even the defending champions, could not slow down the momentum of the Panthers as Montclair fell 3-2 on Friday before Rowan were rolled over 5-1 on Saturday.

Middlebury faced Montclair for the right to play in the NCAA quarterfinals on Saturday and came out firing on all cylinders. A goal from defender Becca Brakeley '04 just over 10 minutes into the game set Middlebury on its way before Char Glessner '04 added to her goal tally for the season by putting Middlebury 2-0 up with 13:45 left in the first half. Montclair did not seem to be in the game at the end of the first half, and after seeing the Panthers outshoot them by a differential of 16-1 at the end of the first half, they clearly needed to change something. Montclair is traditionally a second-half team and true to form, they came out blazing in the second half, taking less than seven minutes to peg Middlebury back to 2-1. A period of intense pressure ensued from Montclair but the famed Middlebury defense stood strong against the barrage, with Meg McGillen '07 particularly strong in goal. With the game poised on a knife-edge and Montclair looking for the equalizer, the Panthers netted a crucial third goal. Abigail Lamb '04 was the goal scorer on that occasion, lashing home a penalty corner with 10 minutes to go. Montclair was not done though, and came battling back to score again with just over a minute remaining. Then, with the seconds winding down, Middlebury had to defend a penalty corner to preserve the lead. Missy Krempa '04 was able to get out to the shot and make the block as time ran out. The result marked the end of the season for the visiting Montclair women, while it sent Middlebury through to the next round, against defending champions Rowan the next day.

The Middlebury women knew that Rowan would provide a real test for them, but right from the word go, the Panthers hit top form and there was only ever likely to be one winner. "We just played beautifully. Our passing looked great and we all knew where each other was going to be," commented Brakeley. Middlebury did not take long to assert its dominance on the game, and when Lamb opened the scoring after less than eight minutes, the floodgates were on the brink of opening as the Panthers looked simply imperious. However, Rowan struck back with a goal of its own with 20 minutes to go in the first half, somewhat rocking Middlebury back on its heels. Thankfully, the goal did not knock the women out of their stride as Glessner was rewarded for her persistence in and around the goalmouth. At 2-1, the game was still on, but Middlebury scored an all-important third goal in the dying minutes of the first half with Lamb scoring her second of the day.

Rowan needed to come out of the half-time break and grab an early goal, yet their worst nightmares were realized when Lamb swept home a pass from Krempa to complete a fa-

See Field Hockey, page 26



Schuyler Van Horn

The women's swim team looks to overcome the consequences of a hazing incident last spring as the winter season opens.

Swimmers Anticipate Perennial Rivals

By Jack Donaldson
Staff Writer

As the swimming season nears its start, both the men and women are gearing up for runs at the NESCAC crown, building off strong team chemistry and a crop of talented first-years to help them jump to the top of their respective fields. The women's team will need its young guns to help brush off the burden of hazing-related suspensions to all upperclass women for the first two meets of the season as they seek to challenge traditional foes Amherst and Williams for the league title.

The men's squad, which won the NESCAC championship two years ago, is looking eager to regain the top spot they lost to Williams and Amherst. Last year the team was grounded by senior leadership, but sorely lacked blue chip talent, particularly in diving. In fact, the team failed to put any divers in competition, dramatically hurting them in points. This year, with Tristam Arscott '06 coming back from injury, and new additions such as Rob Collier '07 and Tim Lux '07 contributing their swimming skills, the team is confident it can compete with preseason favorite Williams. The team had a scrimmage against its rivals this past weekend, putting up strong numbers in both the 200 medley and the 200 breast stroke. Seniors like co-captains Matt Clark and Charlie Evans, as well as last year's breakout talent, relay sensation Scott Atkinson '06, will anchor the team's competitive hopes.

The women's team, finishing second in NESCAC competition last year to Williams, is also looking to win its conference. Williams is certainly the favorite, and is an imposing foe indeed. The Ephs have won 102 consecutive meets, a daunting number for the Panthers to try to top. But if one team has the talent and poise to unseat Williams, it is definitely the 2003-2004 Panthers, who are looking better than they have in several years. Returning standouts Sarah Groff '04, McKenna Moreau '06 and Molly Reed '06 have looked strong in the pre-season, and the first-year crop is equally promising as that of the men's squad. In particular, the spry Maegan Olivos '07, and steel-

See Swim, page 26